

How an American advertising giant fell to the British dollar

Yesterday morning, after a sleepless night in the offices of his New York lawyers, Mr Martin Sorrell received the telephone call of a lifetime, telling him that his tiny British company would soon win control of J Walter Thompson, the most famous advertising company in the world.

Mr Bruce Wasserstein, Mr Sorrell's banking adviser, conveyed the message that after a night of haggling, the JWT board had agreed to back a £350 million cash offer devised the previous evening. With the crucial backing of JWT's board, Mr Sorrell's formal offer to the rest of the shareholders looks a formality.

When it is completed next month, Mr Sorrell will have pulled off arguably the most spectacular business deal in memory by a British businessman in America. JWT is a corporate prize few but Mr Sorrell believed was there for the taking. Unilever became a client in 1902. Kraft signed on 20 years later. Eastman Kodak in 1930 and Ford came aboard in 1943.

To win, Mr Sorrell and his Anglo-American banking backers defeated four rival offers from corporate America's most powerful companies.

In the lush atmosphere of Madison Avenue, heart of New York's advertising industry, they thought Mr Sorrell was joking when he made his first offer for JWT less than three weeks ago.

When Mr Don Johnston, head of JWT since 1974, was woken in the middle of the night to be told of the \$45 share bid from WPP, he had never even heard of the company. How could a firm that barely two years previously was a run-down maker of supermarket trolleys suddenly pop up with a takeover bid for JWT, the fourth-largest advertising agency in the US?

But there is one thing Madison Avenue understands very well — the mighty dollar. When Mr Sorrell offered, not over-inflated shares, junk bonds or funny money securities, but \$460 million

A night of haggling, the phone call of a lifetime, and for Martin Sorrell the prize was J. Walter Thompson

for the privilege of owning JWT, he was taken very seriously indeed.

For Mr Sorrell, aged 42, the pursuit of JWT was a logical conclusion of the goals he set himself when he decided against all the best advice to join one of the plum jobs in the advertising world — finance director of Saatchi & Saatchi. Mr Sorrell stands in stark contrast to the flamboyant and exuberant men who often dominate advertising agencies.

He expects his colleagues to be available 24 hours a day, rarely reads much beyond the fine print of legal documents and describes himself as "boring." His non-working life is private and centres round his wife and three sons.

Mr Sorrell's childhood as the son of a

North London Jewish family was steeped in business. His father built up one of the largest chains of high street electrical goods retailers and at the age of 15, he took the advice of a family friend and set himself the goal of taking a degree at Harvard Business School, widely regarded as the finest training for anyone set on carving out a path to the top of the toughest multinational companies in the world. He went to Harvard after taking an economics degree at Cambridge. His first serious job was as personal assistant to Mr James Gulliver, the mercurial Scotsman who blazed a trail in retailing by making Fine Fare a force in Britain's high streets, and now heads the Safeway and Presto group, Argill. Mr Sorrell also spent time helping to run the British end

of Mr Mark McCormack's sports personality management group.

With the benefit of 20-20 hindsight he is one of the few men in the world with enough financial know-how at his fingertips to even contemplate the exercise. For after this training it was Mr Sorrell who masterminded the relentless growth of the Saatchi brothers' business by finding and appraising its target companies, structuring and financing the deals and nurturing the group's cash in readiness for the next takeover.

At Saatchi, Mr Sorrell won admiration if not affection. "He is a workaholic, a brilliant financial operator and aggressive if he thinks you are not performing," said one former colleague. There are unconfirmed reports of rows between Mr Sorrell and the Saatchi brothers over tactics and strategy. It is also said he did not see eye to eye with Mr Tim Beall, the former Saatchi stalwart who has also left to make his own way elsewhere.

Continued on page 24, col 1



Martin Sorrell: victory for a British minnow

Alliance split widens

Steel attacks Owen over merger delay

By Sheila Gumm, Political Staff

David Steel launched a stinging attack on Dr David Owen last night as senior Liberals engaged in manoeuvres apparently aimed at cutting adrift the SDP leader and his parliamentary supporters from the mainstream of their party.

He strongly urged a merger between the two parties and said that any "half-baked compromise" between them would be doomed to failure.

The Liberals are convinced that the proposed poll of the members of both parties will lead to conclusive support for a merger if they can get the

right words on the ballot paper.

Mr Steel criticized Dr Owen for supporting a federal structure somewhere between merger and separation under a single leader.

At last night's Liberal national executive meeting the Liberal leader predicted that any federation or other scheme which did not integrate the two parties is doomed.

"We cannot go on as we are in a state of perpetual negotiation, grinding down goodwill and turning our energies inwards. That is what we did in the last Parliament and we paid a heavy price for it," he said.

For the first time he openly admitted the hostility between the two organizations and also hinted at the difficulties in having to work so closely with Dr Owen.

He said: "However tragic, it would be better for our two parties to go their separate ways letting our members decide for themselves where to place their own political effort in future than to be locked forever in a wary and weary relationship of which the only guiding constitutional principle was mutual suspicion."

He added: "Any half-baked compromise which said little more than 'let's have two parties but one leader' would be doomed from the start."

"The leader would be like a circus rider with his feet on

two different horses. Even if such acrobats manage not to fall off they very rarely stand upright."

"An Alliance which institutionalized tension and division between Liberals and Social Democrats would be a failure."

Sensitive to accusations that he was "bouncing" the SDP into a merger he said: "It was David Owen not me who first went public with views on merger at a press conference after polling day."

The SDP MPs' memorandum on the future of the Alliance was "very disappointing," Mr Steel said. "Leaving aside the fruitlessness of seeking from their membership only answers to the wrong questions, I am discouraged by their central proposition that we should continue discussion of Alliance arrangements through three stages into 1990."

"I simply have no wish to spend the next three years arguing with my friends and colleagues in the SDP over the allocation of constituencies between us, the adoption of policies between us and finally a choice of leader between us."

Crucial moves towards a merger will be made this weekend when Mr Des Wilson, the Liberals' president, will try to persuade Mrs Shirley Williams, president of the SDP, that the two parties should use the same wording in balloting all Alliance members.

US offers to improve Syria links

From Michael Binyon, Washington

President Reagan has written to President Assad of Syria offering to improve relations between the two countries at a time when Syria is stepping up efforts to secure the release of Mr Charles Glass, the American journalist kidnapped in Beirut.

Mr Reagan suggested ways of overcoming the strain between the two countries. The US withdrew its ambassador from Damascus in October in solidarity with Britain's breaking of diplomatic relations.

Thatcher consulted: The Foreign Office said President Reagan wrote to President Assad only "after discussing the matter with Mrs Thatcher at the Venice Summit" earlier this month.

Degree awards

Degrees awarded by the University of Durham will be published on Monday.

Portfolio Gold

There is £8,000 to be won in the Portfolio Gold weekly competition and a further £4,000 in the daily competition.

Yesterday's £8,000 prize, double the usual amount because there was no winner the previous day, was shared by two readers. Details page 3.

Portfolio lists pages 29 and 37.

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£30m written off on Navy computer

By Michael Evans, Defence Correspondent

The Royal Navy's new Type 23 frigate programme faces delay because of a decision by the Ministry of Defence to cancel a multi-million pound contract with Ferranti for the warships' vital computerized command and control system.

Ferranti Computer Systems originally won the contract to equip the frigates with their CACS4 computer about 18 months ago, and the first Type 23, HMS Norfolk, is due to be launched on July 10 for service in about two years' time.

Four Type 23s have so far been ordered by the Navy.

But worried that rapidly advancing technology had overtaken the CACS4, the Ministry of Defence reopened the bidding for a revised contract at the end of last year, as disclosed in *The Times* in December. Ferranti was among the five companies, with an updated version of

CACS4, who competed for the new contract.

However, the Ministry of Defence has now firmly rejected the CACS4 and is looking for a totally new system to fit in all the Type 23s. A shortlist of three companies, Plessey, Gresham CAP (with Racal), and Ferranti/Logica, has been drawn up. Ferranti put in three bids, the first two based on CACS4 and a third offering a new computer system, CS500, in partnership with Logica, a software firm.

The whole saga has caused so much concern at the Ministry of Defence that even now the final decision is being put off for another year. The three companies will be reduced to two and then they will compete for the prize over the next 12 months. The two selected will both be funded by the ministry at a cost of many millions of pounds.

Jet dodges mystery flying object over Russia

By Harvey Elliott, Air Correspondent

A British Airways Jumbo jet made a mid-course diversion to avoid a mystery object high over Russia.

All five crew members — seasoned, sceptical professionals — watched fascinated, but utterly bewildered, as the unidentified object displaying twinkling lights flew directly towards them and then disappeared at high speed over the Kazakhstan horizon.

Russian air traffic controllers reported that there was no other aircraft in the vicinity.

The crew's spokesman, First Officer Anthony Colin, aged 42, was baffled. But he can describe in detail exactly what happened as BA flight 009 from

London Heathrow to Bangkok flew over the Russian hinterland on the evening of April 22.

"We were changing over duties on the flight deck. All five of us were together," said Mr Colin. "Suddenly we saw what appeared to be another aircraft away to our right. It was displaying two white lights just like an aircraft would."

"We watched it carefully and then noticed that there was a green light where there should have been a red port-side navigation light. It was clear that it was coming towards us at about the same level so we turned towards it to ensure that we passed behind it."

"As we did so it accelerated across



Boris Becker, Wimbledon men's singles champion for the past two years, on his way to a 7-6, 4-6, 6-2, 6-4 defeat yesterday at the hands of little-known Australian Peter Dookhan in the second round of this year's tournament (Photograph: Tim Bishop). Out to grass, page 44

Police surgeon says child abuse claims hit innocent

A senior police surgeon last night made an astonishing attack on one of the doctors at the centre of the child sex abuse storm.

Dr Alastair Irvine, the senior police surgeon for Cleveland, said his conscience would not allow him to keep quiet about the role of Dr Marieta Higgs in the child abuse cases. Dr Irvine said he had been denied access to most of the 60 children in the care of Cleveland Social Services, who are alleged to have been sexually abused.

He said: "The whole thing is horrendous. Innocent parents and non-abused children are being diagnosed as abused or abusers."

"I have been involved over the last three months at all levels of trying to persuade Dr Higgs of her errors but she's unmoved. She isn't prepared to listen."

In an interview on Tyne-Tees television, Dr Irvine claimed that three children he examined four weeks ago, whom Dr Higgs had diagnosed as sexually abused,

bore no evidence of abuse whatsoever.

Five more children alleged to have been sexually abused were reunited with their families yesterday after further court hearings in Cleveland (Ian Smith writes).

Lawyers acting for the parents of another 17 children aged from four months to 12 years, taken away by Cleveland Social Services, who have all been made wards of court, have successfully applied for their court hearings to be brought forward to Monday to save families further distress.

Mr Graham Brown, a solicitor who is acting for the parents says he will produce medical evidence that will contradict the findings of consultants at Middlesbrough General Hospital that each of the 17 children had been abused.

A panel of medical experts called in by the Northern Regional Health Authority to examine the 202 cases of alleged victims of sexual and physical abuse was named yesterday.

Abuse symptoms dispute, page 3

Parents of those children taken into care have been advised by solicitors not to sign consent forms for the children to be examined by panel members.

The Reverend Michael Wright, a spokesman for a group of parents, said families feared their children would never be returned.

He said: "Their solicitors have advised them not to sign examination consent forms because it would be allowing the regional health authority access to what amounts to a blank cheque."

Dr Liam Donaldson, the Northern Regional Health Authority Medical Officer, announcing the formation of the independent panel, said their findings would remain confidential and passed only to the director of Cleveland Social Services.

The panel will be led by Professor Ian Kolvin, professor of child and adolescent psychiatry at Newcastle Upon Tyne University.

Abuse symptoms dispute, page 3

Violent clashes as Chun cracks down

From David Watts, Seoul

President Chun Doo Hwan cracked down hard on opposition peace marches throughout South Korea last night, briefly detaining Mr Kim Young Sam and putting Mr Kim Dae Jung back under house arrest.

Less than 30 hours after a meeting between Mr Kim Young Sam and the President aimed at reducing tensions, the opposition leader was rearrested and bundled into a car by police. Mr Kim Dae Jung, another leading opposition figure, had been released from house arrest less than seven hours when police arrived at his home and forbade him to leave.

The National Council for a Democratic Constitution decided to continue with what the Government called an illegal march after the failure of the Chun-Kim talks to bring any significant concessions from the President.

After eight hours of clashes affecting 38 cities, tear gas shells were still being fired in Seoul early this morning. The worst violence between police and protesters outside the capital took place in Kwangju and Pusan, where some 20,000 and 10,000 dem-

onstrators respectively crowded the streets.

Parts of Seoul city centre became battlefields as frustrated demonstrators started pelting police with broken bricks and stones. Young demonstrators were pursued by riot police into the lobby of the Hilton Hotel.

The Government began forestalling early on what it called the "subversive" nationwide marches planned for yesterday. In sweeps late on Thursday 1,817 people were rounded up.

WASHINGTON: Mr Gaston Sigur, the Reagan Administration's special envoy to South Korea, reported yesterday to the White House and to Mr George Shultz, the Secretary of State, on his recent talks with government and opposition leaders in Korea (Michael Binyon writes).

One solution US officials have discussed with South Korea involves naming an interim president to lead South Korea for a year after President Chun's resignation, with a national election after the 1988 Olympic games.

Chun's tear gas, page 6

Party plenum boosts Gorbachov's power

Mr Mikhail Gorbachov yesterday achieved a significant boost to his personal power in the teeth of bitter opposition to his sweeping reforms from conservatives in the party.

The Central Committee plenum ended with the promotion of three Gorbachov loyalists to full membership of the Politburo.

His success in securing voting rights for three reformists

in the party's ruling body was backed by a final resolution broadly endorsing his drastic economic reform programme.

Western observers describe the outcome of the plenum as a victory for Mr Gorbachov in the face of determined opposition to his plans to streamline the economy and to weaken central control over it. Radical recipe, page 5

Leading article, page 9

A tall story?

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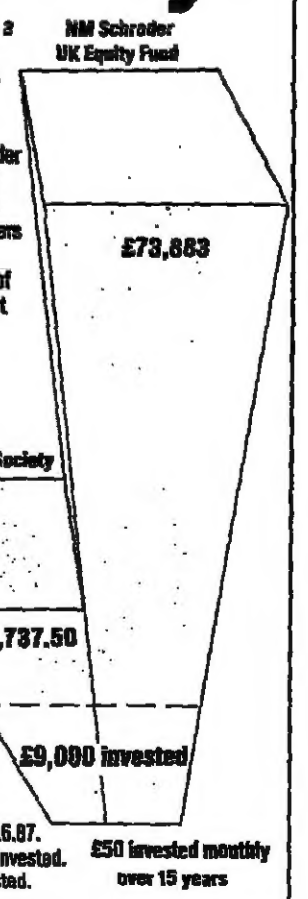
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Schroders

NEWS SUMMARY

Fourth man shot dead in Belfast

A part-time soldier in the Ulster Defence Regiment was shot dead on a Belfast building site yesterday, the fourth person murdered in the city this week.

The man, an electrician in his forties, was working on a flats renovation scheme in Surrey Street near the Lisburn Road when a number of men walked on to the site and opened fire. They escaped in a car later found abandoned behind the Royal Victoria Hospital in the Falls Road.

On Thursday, Dominic Jude O'Connor, a Roman Catholic father of four was shot dead outside his West Belfast home as he prepared to take his family on holiday. Police believe it was an indiscriminate "loyalist" sectarian attack.

EETPU victory

The electricians' union was given a welcome boost yesterday when the TUC ruled in its favour over a single union, no-strike agreement it signed with United Paper Mills.

The TUC's inter-union disputes committee ruled in favour of the EETPU against the print workers' union, Sogat 84, which brought the complaint against the electricians for allegedly poaching members.

The union has been under increasing attack for signing the controversial no-strike deals.

Whips named

The Prime Minister completed her government appointments yesterday by promoting Mr David Lightbown, MP for South East Staffordshire since 1983, from assistant whip to whip. Mr Stephen Dorrell, MP for Loughborough since 1979, becomes an assistant whip.

Mr Dorrell is a renowned moderate who since 1983 has been parliamentary private secretary to Mr Peter Walker, the Cabinet's sole surviving "wet". Mr Lightbown is a right-winger.

PC is kidnapped

A policeman was kidnapped at knife-point yesterday and driven 70 miles in his panda car before being dumped. Constable Michael Barton was overpowered by two men and handcuffed after being called to a disturbance at Wharfedale Hospital in Otley, West Yorkshire. He was then taken on a two-hour ride in his police car before being released in Beverley, Humberside. Two men were being questioned by police last night.

Short is ahead

Nigel Short (right) of Britain leads the world chess championship qualifying tournament in Subotica, Yugoslavia. After three rounds, he has 2½ points while the British champion Jon Speelman has two points (Our Chess Correspondent writes).



Chapelton remand

Six teenagers were remanded by Leeds magistrates yesterday when they faced charges in connection with disturbances in the Chapelton area on Tuesday.

Reporting restrictions were lifted in the case of Philip George Crumble, aged 17, of Glenhow Park Avenue, so an appeal could be made for witnesses to come forward to prove he was involved only as a spectator.

Tories reveal curb on left-wing councils

By Martin Fletcher
Political Reporter

The Government started its attack on left-wing Labour councils yesterday by publishing legislation designed to curb their powers and force them to work with the private sector.

The new Local Government Bill will be the first of a series of measures clamping down on left-wing authorities on whom Mrs Margaret Thatcher pins much of the responsibility for inner-city decay.

The Bill, most of which was prepared in the last government but fell foul of the election, will force councils to open up certain services to competitive tendering, prevent them from imposing unreasonable political conditions on private contractors, and outlaw political propaganda on the rates.

It will also enable councils to give financial encouragement to the private sector to provide rented housing. A further clause is designed to encourage authorities to re-

lease unused land for productive use.

Mr Michael Howard, Minister for Local Government, said yesterday that councils could save at least £300 million a year by inviting tenders for the six local authority services specified in the Bill.

Those are school meals and other catering, refuse collection, street cleaning, the cleaning of public buildings, vehicle maintenance, and ground maintenance — services which currently cost local govern-

ment around £3 billion a year.

The Bill also empowers the Secretary of State for the Environment to add further services to the list, but Mr Howard said he hoped councils would voluntarily "grasp the opportunities offered by competition".

Mr Howard claimed that political discrimination by left-wing councils against, for example, firms with South African or nuclear links was "a growing and serious abuse".

"Authorities' main aim

must be to provide services efficiently and at a reasonable cost. To bring national politics into the contract process in this way is an abuse of local authority power that will be stamped out in this Bill."

The Bill was welcomed yesterday by the Building Employers Confederation and other bodies likely to benefit from the changes, but condemned by the Labour-controlled Association of London Authorities which claimed privatization did not mean better and cheaper services.

Ridley stands by rates reform as outcry grows

By Martin Fletcher, Political Reporter

Mr Nicholas Ridley, Secretary of State for the Environment, sought to make a virtue of the growing outcry over the Government's rates reform plans yesterday by arguing that it represented the beginnings of a popular movement against high spending councils.

He said that protesters were those facing high community charges because their councils were high spenders. That was where the rumblings were coming from, but "in due course they will be expressing that concern against the council, not against the Government".

He was "flattered and pleased to see the principle of accountability beginning to work even at this very early stage". Mr Ridley said, but did indicate some anxiety by disclosing that the necessary legislation would not come before the Commons until early next year — later than expected.

Meanwhile, the controversy over government plans to replace rates with a community charge continued to dominate the political agenda, with an angry Mr Neil Kinnock following up Labour's Queen's Speech onslaught on Thursday by predicting "chaos" and accusing Mr Ridley of wanting to wreck local government.

At the same time, senior ministers betrayed signs of Cabinet nerves over a possible Tory backbench rebellion by saying that the only alternative to the community charge was the first revaluation of property since 1973.

Given the boom in London property prices that would mean huge rate rises.

One leading Cabinet minister said yesterday that "scare stories about the community charge would pale into insignificance besides a revaluation of property in London".

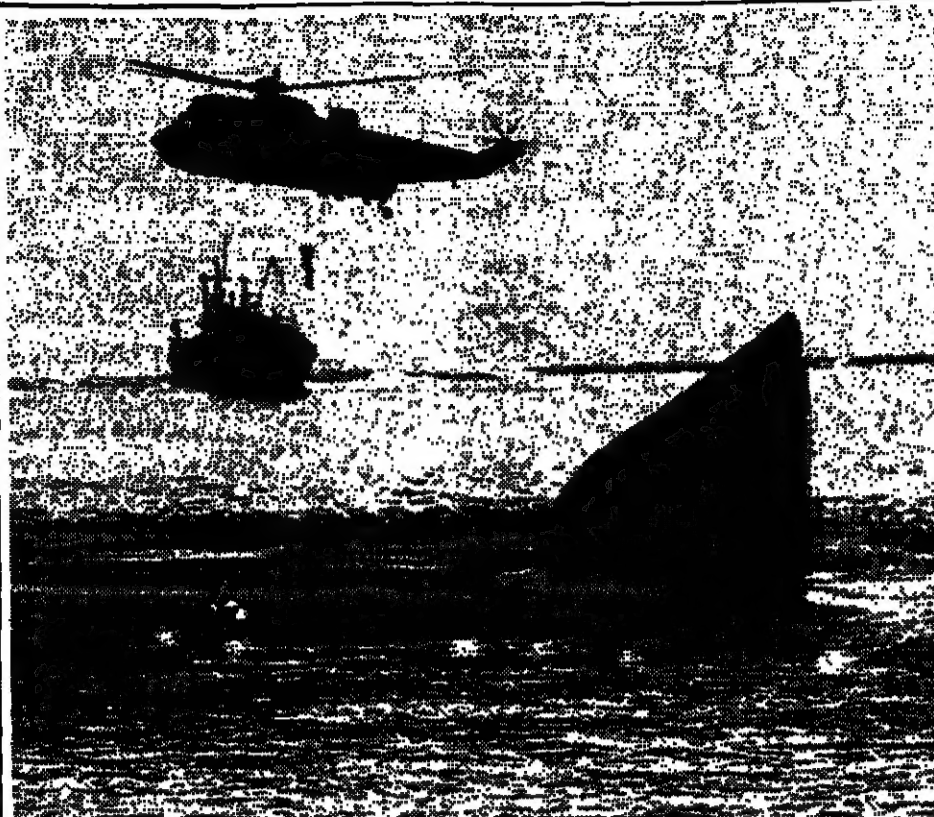
"If you go on with rates as they are, you have got to have a revaluation. This argument has not yet been fully deployed or taken on board by Conservative members who are talking very quickly."

Questioned on BBC radio's Today programme about reports of widespread disquiet on his own back benches, Mr Ridley retorted that only two of the 300 Tory MPs had expressed opposition publicly. Rates reform was a popular election pledge that now had to be fulfilled.

He appeared to rule out any significant changes to the Bill in the face of the protests, but continued: "What we have to do is make sure it is homogeneous. We cannot do one thing in one area and another in another."

Mr Kinnock, in an address to the Association of District Councils in Cardiff, claimed that the community charge would lead "to a grotesque centralization of power, to huge administrative complications and costs, and to a franchise in this democracy dependent upon registration for tax for the first time in our history".

Rates were not popular, but linked to a fair rebate system they could reflect people's ability to pay.



A seaman is winched aboard a Royal Navy Sea King as the West German trawler sinks.

Fine night for rescue at sea

By Ruth Gledhill

There could hardly have been a calmer sea or less wind when Warrant Officer Anthony Benton stood at his post on the deck of the Royal Navy, HMS Ark Royal.

The last thing he expected on Thursday night was to find himself swimming for his life with a crippled ship sinking beneath him.

Warrant Officer Benton, on his way south from Scotland with the Ark Royal after a series of naval exercises, was picked to lead a rescue team in response to a mayday call from a German fishing vessel.

The Royal Navy's two-year-old, £320 million aircraft carrier, a passenger ferry, a lifeboat and a fishing boat arrived to help the West German factory ship, the Hessa, and its 19 crew, which sailed earlier in the day for Greenland but found itself in trouble in the Pentland Firth, off north Scotland.

Two Sea King helicopters were scrambled to the rescue of the trawler, which is believed to have hit a rock in calm seas at about sunset off John O'Groats.

Warrant Officer Benton, who said the ordeal had left him "numb but relieved", was winched on to the deck with a salvage team of five.

"I went to the engine room which was filling up quickly. Our main concern was to get everybody off the ship", he said.

"We managed to get everyone on to a fishing boat except two of my men, the captain and his mate."

The five ran towards the stern of the ship, which was sinking as it sank rapidly. The two Royal Navy men and the trawler's first mate were winched from the deck as Warrant Officer Benton and

the captain continued towards the stern.

"By the time I put the captain into the strop, the water was up to my waist. There was no time for a helicopter to fly past again", he said.

"I had no choice but to swim away as fast as I could so I did not go down with the trawler. I was rescued a few minutes later from the water by helicopter."

Captain Michael Harris, of the Ark Royal, which was 30 miles away when it received the distress call, said: "We do not do this kind of rescue often. But like all seamen, we are always ready to respond to mayday calls at sea."

The trawler skipper, Captain Gunter Krone, his crew and the 13-year-old son of one crew member, spent the night at the John O'Groats Hotel. The German Fishing Union is to investigate the sinking.

Healey blames Left for defeat

By Nicholas Wood
Political Reporter

Mr Denis Healey, conceded yesterday that the "antics" of left-wing councils in London contributed greatly to Labour's general election defeat.

The shadow Foreign Secretary, who is returning to the backbenches after nearly 30 years at the top of his party, also dismissed as "ridiculous" the fashionable far-left notion, that Labour can remain a national party by appealing to a so-called rainbow coalition of minority groups such as homosexuals, lesbians and blacks.

Speaking on BBC radio, Mr Healey said: "I think we have to support those who are disadvantaged because they are coloured, because they don't speak English properly or, if you like, because they are gay."

"But I think this ridiculous idea that you can build a national party simply by supporting the interests of small minorities is a great mistake, and I think it was the lack of balance there that was the problem."

Echoing the private views of Mr Neil Kinnock, the Labour leader, Mr Healey said that a handful of the London councils, their activities caricatured by the "gutter press", had cast a "blight" over the party elsewhere in the country.

On a broader level, Labour had failed to adapt to social change and remained too closely wedded to the trades unions.

Mr Healey said that it was "very noticeable" that in London, once the bedrock of Labour support in the south, nearly all the party's parliamentary candidates had lost votes.

"People like Ken Livingstone saw their vote fall much more than people like Nick Raynsford, who was holding a marginal seat anyway and lost as a result."

Mr Healey added: "We have not got to grips with a society in which most people own their own house and would like to if they don't."

Overseas cash saves research

The Science and Engineering Research Council is appealing to foreign investors to compensate for government cuts in the university research budget (Our Science Editor writes).

It is negotiating long-term agreements so that foreign scientists can use machines and telescopes that are too costly to maintain purely for British researchers.

The process, which began with sharing the costs of the new telescopes built by the council on Hawaii and La Palma, has been extended to the £60 million Isis nuclear instrument at the Rutherford Appleton laboratory, near Oxford. The apparatus which began operating two years ago, is used by German, Dutch and Italian scientists.

The French national research agency is the latest partner to contribute £600,000 to the running costs so that its scientists can attach elaborate experiments to Isis. It should be joined soon by Indian, Japanese and other teams.

The Isis device is known as a spallation neutron source, and it is a unique type of microscope that creates beams of neutrons to probe the heart of atoms and molecules.

Sunday Times

The revelation that children are suffering from sexual abuse within their families on a widespread scale has led to a hysterical reaction.

However, in tomorrow's Sunday Times, experts argue that such a response, now bordering on panic, could do even more damage in the long run.

In a disturbing and challenging report, the experts predict that there could be a lasting damage to family life and a crisis of confidence in our social services.

The Sunday Times also considers the problems now facing the younger members of Britain's leading family — by looking at their European cousins.

What is life like for the offspring of the royal houses in Scandinavia, Holland, Belgium and Spain?

Do they avoid the pitfalls of being criticized for being either too fan-loving or too serious and stuck-up?

CEGB grid plan 'full of errors'

By Colin Narborough

The Central Electricity Generating Board's scheme to establish a two-tier computer control of the national power grid has been a catalogue of managerial and technical mistakes, and remains a "high risk" project.

These were two conclusions of a report published yesterday by the Monopolies and Mergers Commission on the CEGB's efficiency in the transmission of bulk electricity.

The Government intends to privatize the electricity industry — a sale that could raise up to £18 billion, although no legislation is anticipated until the next session of Parliament.

The 205-page report said the grid control project was now estimated to cost over £95 million, compared with only £10.5 million when plans were drawn up 10 years ago.

The CEGB's mistakes, which have had "serious consequences" for national and area control, included failure to grasp the scale of the project, unsound management of it and failure to monitor progress systematically.

The control system would furthermore only come on stream in 1993, nine years behind target, it said.

The commission's investigation was ordered last September by Mr Paul Channon, the then Secretary of State for Trade and Industry, as part of the watchdog's scrutiny of nationalized industries.

But anyone who goes to see the show coming up at Sadler's Wells in London had better be prepared for more than the occasional dramatic thunderclap.

A "literal" interpretation of the play by a nationalistic group of Catalan players from Barcelona in Spain will require waterproof sheeting to

Confusion over identity parades

By Peter Evans, Home Affairs Correspondent

The crown prosecution service is worried that hundreds of convictions since 1985 may be quashed after the discovery that police identity parades have been wrongly conducted.

Police interpretation of the rules surrounding them was left in confusion after the trial of a man at Croydon Crown Court on a wounding charge.

It was found yesterday that the procedure being used was based on a ruling made in 1978. That was superseded in 1985 by a new one but the police are still using the old system, Judge Pullinger said.

He threw out a case in which Mr Stephen Docking, aged 22, of Deacon Way, Walworth, had been accused of wounding a man in a fight in a restaurant.

Home Office circular number 109 in 1978 stated that the police officer handling the identity parade should tell the witness that the suspect he was looking for might or might not be in the line-up.

But a circular issued in 1985 stipulated that the officer should make it clear that the suspect was on the parade, and that with him were several other people not involved in the alleged crime.

Judge Pullinger said that circular was not referred to in the most recent edition of Archbold, the lawyers' work of reference. The slip-up came to light when Woman Police Inspector Ragna Tullough was challenged by Mr Philip Statman, counsel for Mr Docking.

It will now be up to people who have been convicted after identity parades to get legal advice with a view to appealing against their convictions.

The Home Office said it would study the judgement. But codes of practice under the Police and Criminal Evidence Act, which came into force last year, say that the witness must be told that the person he saw may or may not be on the parade.

Since that appears to be the 1978 position, as reported from the court, the police are meanwhile left in a quandary.

With the prison population reaching more than 50,500 yesterday, the pressure on the system is so great that the Metropolitan Police cannot hold in their cells all those remanded in the London area.

Twenty-one people who made a court appearance in London were yesterday being held in police cells as far away as Corby, Northamptonshire. Another 20 were in Kent, 15 in the Thames Valley and three in Essex.

The Tempest rains in Spain

By Ruth Gledhill

Most audiences do not expect to be soaked to the skin when Prospero summons the tempest in Shakespeare's classic.

But anyone who goes to see the show coming up at Sadler's Wells in London had better be prepared for more than the occasional dramatic thunderclap.

A "literal" interpretation of the play by a nationalistic group of Catalan players from Barcelona in Spain will require waterproof sheeting to

cover the theatre seats and floor.

The audience will be given singing, swimming and survival lessons by the cast and will be asked to make an instant "confession". Raincoats will be issued to all.

"It is a very unusual way of staging The Tempest", said Mr Mark Borowski, publicist for the London International Festival of Theatre which has invited the La Cubana group to London for

its bizarre production.

He revealed that the first 20 minutes of the play will be straight Shakespeare — in Catalan. But when Prospero summons the "dreadful thunderclaps that throw the King of Naples and his men on to a tempestuous sea" the lights will go out, there will be a loud explosion and lightning and water will start raining down. Anyone who attempts to escape from the theatre will face torrential rain at all windows and doors.

Yet the Metropolitan Police were holding 223 in more than 30 places. Because the South-east is under great pressure, another 119 were in police cells in the North.

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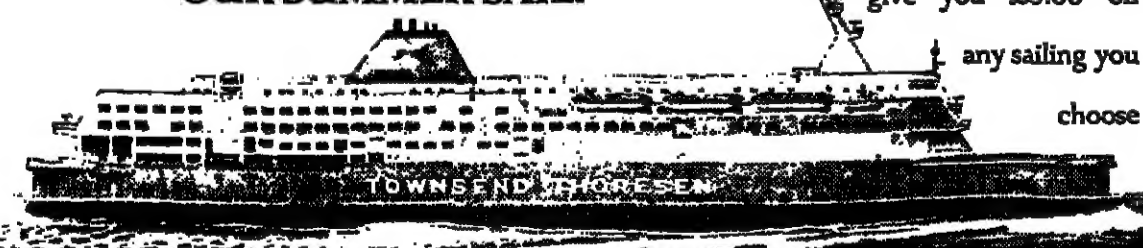
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Health chief condemns longer hours for pubs

By Jill Sherman, Social Services Correspondent

New licensing hours proposed by the Government will increase under-age drinking and add to social problems caused by alcohol, the new chief executive of the Health Education Authority said yesterday.

Dr Spencer Hargad said the move was likely to increase individual consumption of alcohol, which had risen by half since the 1960s.

"The wicked levels of fatal and serious road accidents should be taken into account, as should the frightening toll of domestic violence and its association with alcohol."

Dr Hargad, who earlier this week criticized the Government's policy on tobacco, said that Parliament should recognize its role in co-ordinating healthy public policy between departments so that positive fiscal and legislative measures could be taken.

"For Parliament this means recognizing that the real price of alcohol has never been less, its availability has never been greater and the health and social damage which it causes is running at record levels."

The licensing proposals were also condemned yesterday by the Royal College of Psychiatrists.

"With the alarming growth in alcohol-related harm it is essential that any change which might lead to a worsening of this situation must be carefully monitored," Dr Thomas Bewley, the college's president, said.

A recent survey had shown that a third of 15-year-olds

had been sick after drinking and nearly half had drunk so much that they could not remember part of the night before, the college said.

"Forty-five per cent of fatal road accidents to young people are associated with alcohol. This is not the climate in which to request a further extension of licensing hours."

There was also criticism yesterday of another measure outlined in the Queen's Speech on Thursday: the abolition of the dog licence (Our Political Reporter writes).

The £3.5 million collection costs now exceed revenue by £2.6 million, and the Government has decided it is more trouble than it is worth.

But the RSPCA said it was planning a national campaign against the "cowardly and irresponsible" decision to scrap the 37p licence.

Mr David Wilkins, the RSPCA chief veterinary officer, said: "Abandoning the licensing system will inevitably lead to more stray dogs, more unwanted animals having to be destroyed, and will stifle attempts to encourage responsible dog ownership."

If the licence was abandoned there had to be alternative controls.

The National Farmers' Union is also opposed to abolition, its spokesman, Mr David Collier, said: "They are throwing away a decision to improve dog control which is a serious problem in this country."

Father jailed for kidnap attempt

A former garage owner was jailed for three years yesterday for hiring a gang to kidnap his daughter so that he could force her into an arranged marriage.

But at the end of the case at Exeter Crown Court, Surinderjit Singh, 31, a married Pakistani Muslim, who ran away to a women's refuge in Barnstaple after Mr Hamid was sent to Pakistan when his father found out about their relationship.

The court had been told that Kunju Raveendran hired the gang to kidnap his daughter after she ran away from home because she did not want to take part in the arranged marriage.

Four other men were also jailed for their part in the plot to seize the Miss Raveendran, aged 22, in the street at Barnstaple, Devon, by bundling her into a car.

The attempt was foiled by Mrs Beryl Kempe, aged 55, a passer-by, who pulled Miss Raveendran away from the men. She was awarded £50 by the judge, who praised her courage.

Raveendran, aged 53, of Cowley, Oxford, had admitted conspiracy to kidnap, Philip Best, aged 36, of Yeovil, Somerset, was jailed for three years and Ronald Clark, aged 38, also of Yeovil, was sentenced to two years after admitting a similar charge.

Christopher Cornish, aged 28 and Dermot Rickerby, aged 39, also both of Yeovil, who

pleaded not guilty, were sentenced to three years.

The court was told that Miss Raveendran, a Hindu, had been having a secret affair with Mr Mustapha Hamid, aged 21, a married Pakistani Muslim. She ran away to a women's refuge in Barnstaple after Mr Hamid was sent to Pakistan when his father found out about their relationship.

Cornish and Clark had stopped Miss Raveendran in Barnstaple town centre and tried to pull her into a car driven by Rickerby. But Mrs Kempe, a grandmother, jumped out of the passenger seat of a passing car to free her.

Another passer-by took the car registration number as it sped off. Raveendran fled from Britain but was arrested on his return eight months later.

Mr Justice Jupp described Raveendran as a hard-working man who was disgraced by his daughter's relationship with a Muslim.

He said: "You were trying this almost entirely because of the dishonour you felt had been done to your family by her behaviour. But if you live in England you must keep to our way of life so far as violence and kidnapping are concerned, which cause great distress in this country."

O levels branded as sexist

Examination papers for O and A levels are riddled with sexism, according to a report published yesterday by the feminist Fawcett Society (Our Education Correspondent writes).

It says one of the most common types of sexism is the stereotyped presentation of men and women: men are admirable (even when, as in one German O level translation, they are drunk) while women are frivolous.

Mathematics and science questions are said to provide the most explicit instances of sexism: "A man spent a man invest... five women..."

In English literature, questions are said to be set mainly on works written by men.

On the other hand, home economics is "still regarded largely as the province of girls". The worst question in a strong field was: "Your brother has a Saturday job at a local farm, (a) prepare and pack a substantial midday meal for him, (b) launder his shirt and trousers, clean and press his jacket and clean his shoes ready for the disco in the evening."

The report is based on a study of more than 1,000 papers written last year. The Fawcett Society, which was founded in 1866, has about 500 members.

Exams for the Boys (Fawcett Society, 46 Harleyford Road, London SE11 5AY; £2).

Bike gang jailed for '100 years'

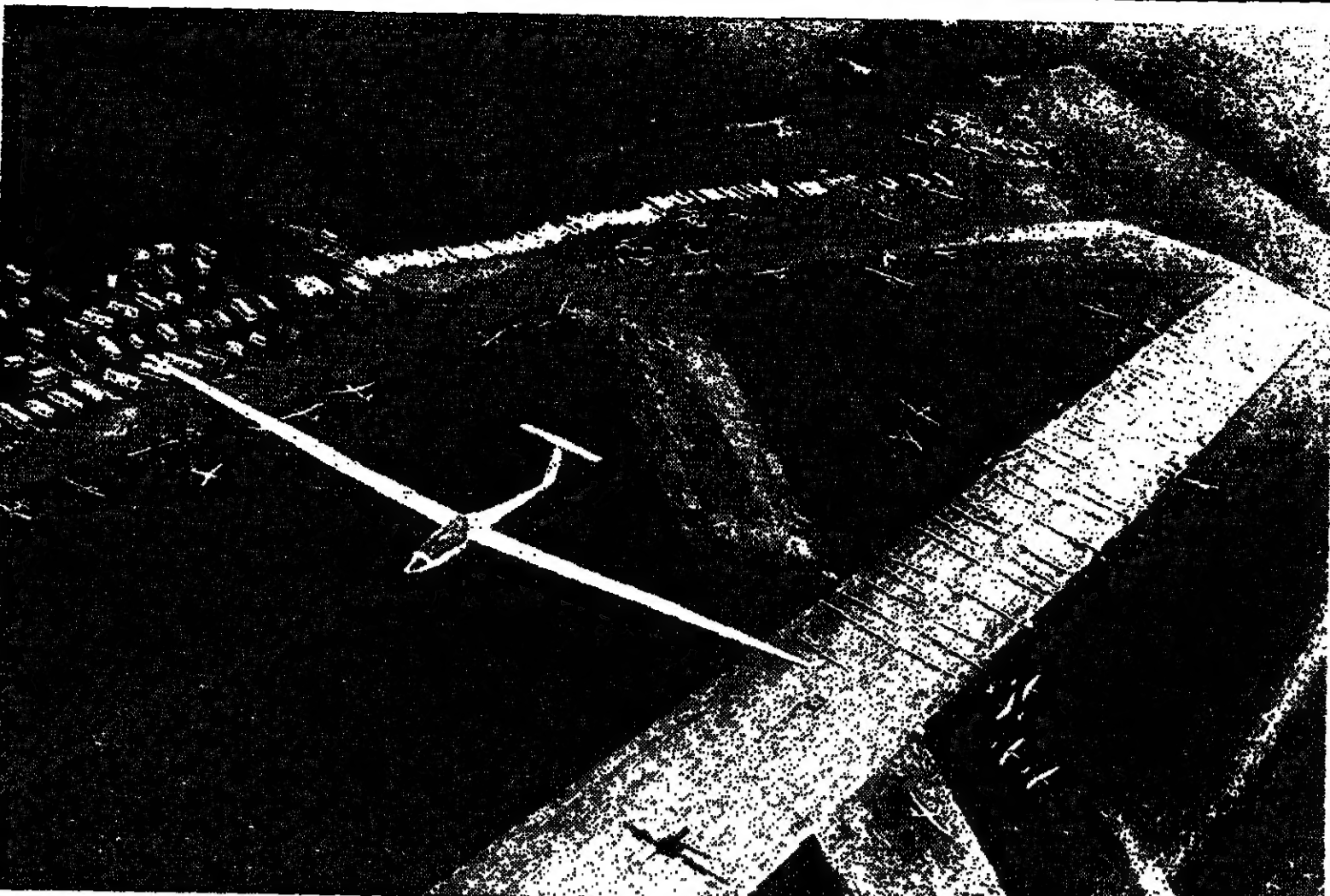
Twenty-five members of a motorcycle gang were jailed yesterday for their part in a raid on a rival gang's headquarters in Leamington Spa last year.

The longest sentence was imposed on Peter Vignas, aged 39, described as the leader of the Leicester Rats gang, who was sentenced to ten years for conspiring to cause grievous bodily harm and carrying offensive weapons.

Passing sentence at Leicester Crown Court, Judge Francis Allen said it was not a case of young people involved in doorstep fighting, but of grown men travelling across the country to take part in a petrol bomb attack on the gang's headquarters.

Mr Krivopalov was interested in two medieval sandstone knights which had once graced Hereford's city wall. He was writing an article for his Moscow readers on the city's failed effort to stop the Government planning the sale

of the statues abroad to Mr Ronald Lander, the American ambassador to Austria, who was apparently keen to acquire fragments of European heritage.



Mr Mark Thompson, a former coal miner who is now a gliding instructor, overflying Lasham Airfield in Hampshire, the venue for the GEC gliding championships. Dozens of craft, many seen on the airstrip, have been taking part in the contest, which ends tomorrow (Photograph: Julian Herbert).

Children 'at risk' because of abuse symptoms dispute

By Jill Sherman and Ian Smith

Some young children could be at increased risk because of the dispute over allegations of false identification of child sexual abuse, specialists said yesterday.

Even before the allegations that cases of sexual abuse in Cleveland had been wrongly identified, the medical profession was split over what constituted evidence of abuse.

Specialists say that doctors are now afraid of both reporting and not reporting suspected abuse, because of the likely reaction from the public and media.

Paediatricians have already shown divided views over the identification of this type of abuse, with some advising extreme caution before diagnosing sexual abuse, and others, adopting a more aggressive approach, calling for early reporting.

Yesterday Dr Eileen Vizard, a psychiatrist at The London Hospital, specializing in child and adolescent sexual abuse, said that the medical profession was likely to come under increasing attack when child abuse is diagnosed.

She said: "Society cannot blame children for being sexually abused but it wants to blame somebody."

"First social workers found themselves in the firing line. Now doctors are going to be both blamed and turned into scapegoats."

Dr Vizard, who used to work at the Hospital for Sick Children, Great Ormond Street, and has handled hundreds of cases of child sexual abuse, said that many doctors had told her they were terrified of both reporting or not reporting signs of abuse because of the reaction from the public and the media.

Dr Vizard said that once a doctor suspected that a child had been abused he or she should contact the social services department and if necessary the police.

She said: "There should not be a panic reaction from doctors. In most cases the paediatrician will have already been aware of a number

of risk factors before the examination takes place. It is very unlikely that a child suddenly presents a symptom."

Yesterday Dr John Gosnold, a consultant at Hull Royal Infirmary, said he believed that Dr Marietta Higgs, the doctor who had diagnosed many of the suspected cases in Cleveland, had become a victim of "doctor-baiting".

Dr Gosnold, who regularly deals with child abuse cases, said that child sexual abuse had existed for hundreds of years but professionals were

specializing in child abuse who has recently been appointed is now taking up cases which in the past have been missed."

Mrs Diane Core, who established a group in Humberside dealing with child abuse called ChildWatch, which led to the Esther Rantzen television programme of the same name, also sprang to Dr Higgs' defence yesterday.

She said: "From everything I have been told it seems certain that Dr Higgs is a skilled and experienced paediatrician who puts the priorities of the child first."

Weeks later the debate was taken up by doctors from the departments of gynaecology, paediatrics and surgery at St James's University Hospital, Leeds, who said that many of the findings described by Dr Wynne and Dr Roberts were consistent with a diagnosis of constipation, Crohn's disease and other childhood illnesses.

Yesterday Dr Wynne, who dealt with more than 950 cases of child abuse last year agreed that there could be no blanket rule for detecting child sexual abuse. In many cases, it was better to be safe than sorry, she said.

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Tests that can end suspicion

By Robert Matthews

Much greater use should be made of psychological tests on children suspected of being sexually abused, according to a consultant child psychiatrist at London's Maudsley Hospital.

Dr Stephen Wolkind, a consultant at the Maudsley Hospital in London, said yesterday that such tests could help establish whether sexual abuse had taken place in the 70 per cent of cases where no physical signs were visible.

Dr Wolkind is one of a growing group of child psychiatrists using a technique called attachment theory, developed by the British psychiatrist Dr John Bowlby over the last 30 years.

The child is brought into a laboratory with one of its parents, and its attitude towards new surroundings gauged by observers.

A stranger then enters the laboratory, who then leaves, followed by the parent. The reactions of both the child and the parent to the changing circumstances help establish whether there is a high level of emotional attachment between parent and child.

According to Dr Wolkind, children who have been abused either show complete indifference to the presence of the parent, or excessive closeness.

Finding such a reaction should lead psychiatrists to suspect that abuse has taken place and to carry out further investigations.

"Attachment theory does not give a definitive answer, but when combined with paediatric evidence, it does show the need to treat the relationship with caution," Dr Wolkind said.

He believed the theory would have worked in the case of the murdered girl Kimberly, ruled that although a girl aged two and her brother aged one must remain under the care of social services they should be returned to their mother until a full high court hearing takes place.

He ordered that both children undergo independent medical examinations.

Dr Bowlby's discovery of

A good nanny is hard to find, but worth the hunt

Nannies can be as good as natural mothers in bringing up children, according to a psychiatrist who is widely held to have proved in the 1950s that working mothers risk causing severe psychological damage to their children.

At an international conference to celebrate his eightieth birthday, Dr John Bowlby said that if mothers "can find the right person as a substitute, that is fine."

However he emphasized that "it can be very difficult to find such a person."

Dr Bowlby's discovery of

Doctor loses drink ban plea

A doctor who was arrested for drink-driving, after he stopped at a police station to ask directions to a sick child's home, lost a court plea yesterday to keep his driving licence.

Dr Brian Heriot-Hill, aged 47, chief medical officer at St Luke's Hospital, west London, was disqualified for three years by Haringey Road magistrates and fined £250 (with £25 costs).

Portfolio Gold Holiday beckons winner

Two winners share the Portfolio Gold competition prize of £8,000, double the usual amount because there were no winners yesterday.

Mr John Holborow, a retired art lecturer, of Inwood Road, Cringleford, Norwich, is planning to spend his windfall on a holiday for his wife and himself.

Mrs Janet Holborow said her husband had been a regular reader of *The Times* and a Portfolio player since the competition started.

She said: "We are delighted with the win and will probably spend it on a holiday although we have not decided where to go. Some will go on the family as we have two daughters and four grandchildren."

The other winner was Mr L. Ball, of Hillcrest Drive, Miltthorpe, Cumbria.

Readers can obtain a Portfolio Gold card by sending a stamped addressed envelope to:

Portfolio Gold, The Times, Blackburn, BB1 6AJ.

Airliner drops 30,000ft in six minutes

A Monarch Airlines Boeing 757 was forced to descend 30,000ft in less than six minutes when a faulty valve caused a sudden decompression in the passenger cabin (Our Air Correspondent writes).

Oxygen masks automatically dropped down and many passengers suffered ill-effects as the aircraft, which was taking 228 holidaymakers from Gatwick to Crete three weeks ago, rapidly fell to a safe altitude.

One passenger said yesterday that the masks did not function properly, but this was denied by Monarch, although the airline said that four out of 228 needed assistance from the cabin crew as they dropped down.

Lords to rule on Heyssel riot extradition

The Belgian government will attempt in the House of Lords on Monday to extradite 26 Liverpool football supporters wanted by the Belgian authorities on manslaughter charges after the 1985 Heyssel stadium riot in which 39 people died.

The charges against the Liverpool supporters are linked to the death of Mario Ronchi, who was crushed during the riot before the European Cup final between Liverpool and Juventus.

Four days have been set aside for the appeal against a Court of Appeal ruling that blocked the supporters' extradition because evidence had not been presented and authenticated within two months of their arrest.

Three in court after £11m US drugs raid

Three men arrested in Britain after the seizure in New York of more than 19 kilos of heroin, estimated to be worth £11 million, appeared before Bow Street magistrates yesterday.

Peter Dye, aged 38, a company director, of Farnborough, Hampshire, and his brother, Terence Dye, aged 48, a Civil Servant, of Clacton, Essex, were remanded in custody until Friday.

Jonathan Hurley, aged 26, unemployed, of Haverhill, Middlesex, was granted conditional bail until August 7. The court was told that the men were arrested at their homes on Wednesday.

Police chief misused car

The former chief constable of Derbyshire, forcibly retired after the intervention of the Home Secretary, was yesterday ordered to repay £324.58 for the unauthorized use of an official car.

But the district auditor ruled that there was no wilful misconduct by Mr Alf Parrish, aged 56, after investigating claims that he spent £28,000 on his headquarters office suite without police committee approval.

Branson leads Aids charity

Mr Richard Branson, chairman of the Virgin record and airline group, launched a charitable trust yesterday to co-ordinate a new campaign against Aids.

The Virgin Healthcare Foundation will provide inexpensive condoms to outlets such as shops, restaurants, public houses, clubs, petrol stations, newsagents and airlines. All profits will go to Aids care and research.

Alarm bells triggered by their man in Hereford

By Alan Hamilton

Councillor Basil Baldwin, deputy mayor of Hereford, was mildly surprised to receive a telephone call last week from Mr Alexander Krivopalov, London correspondent of *Izvestia*, the Soviet newspaper, requesting an interview.

Mr Krivopalov was interested in two medieval sandstone knights which had once graced Hereford's city wall. He was writing an article for his Moscow readers on the city's failed effort to stop the Government planning the sale

of the statues abroad to Mr Ronald Lander, the American ambassador to Austria, who was apparently keen to acquire fragments of European heritage.

Having checked Mr Krivopalov's credentials, Mr Baldwin invited him to the mayor's parlour in Hereford, introduced him to the Labour mayor, Councillor Walter Little, and discussed sandstone statues. Then the two civic dignitaries gave the newspaperman a guided tour of Hereford Cathedral.

Mr Baldwin's original surprise was nothing to that engendered by his next visitor, a Special Branch detective who wanted to know why Mr Krivopalov had been in Hereford, and what had been said.

This latter visit has left the civic fathers of Hereford in a state of some annoyance.

"It's absolutely bloody monstrous," Mr Little said yesterday. "I think these Special Branch people are cracked; they see germs everywhere. I've absolutely no doubt Mr Krivopalov was a

genuine reporter and if Special Branch ask to see me I've a good mind to tell them to buzz off."

Mr Baldwin was only marginally less exercised. "I'm obviously concerned about national security but sometimes I think we get a bit over-excited," he said yesterday.

"There was absolutely nothing sinister about the interview. Both the mayor and I had been to Moscow on holiday and we just gave him the same hospitality we would offer to

any foreign visitor.

All Soviet officials, including journalists, require special permission to travel more than 25 miles from London. The Foreign and Commonwealth Office confirmed yesterday that Mr Krivopalov had requested, and been granted permission to visit Hereford.

Had *Izvestia* been interested in Hereford's other big tourist attraction, the headquarters of the SAS Regiment, their correspondent would probably have found his hosts a disappointing pair of sources.

World's top table bound for Gulf

"That phrase must have been written by Lord Young. No one who had not Lord Young's gift for sanctimonious hypocrisy could have put such a hypocrite's phrase in the mouth of a hypocrite."

WORLD SUMMARY

Barbie is charged with more crimes

Lyons (Reuters) — The former Lyons Gestapo chief, Klaus Barbie, aged 73, was yesterday accused of more crimes against humanity, ensuring that he will remain imprisoned whatever the outcome of his present trial, on similar charges, which is scheduled to end next week. He faces the death penalty if he is convicted.

Judicial sources here said that the new charges, linked to the arrest of two World War Two Resistance fighters, M André Lassagne and M Bruno Lant, would mean that Barbie would be remanded in custody until he could be tried. The new trial would centre on the capture of the two men in a Gestapo raid in Lyons at the same time as Resistance leader Jean Moulin was held, the sources said.

Yacht four in court

Paris — Three Britons and a Dutchman were charged in a Boulogne-sur-Mer court yesterday with smuggling drugs. They were arrested on the British yacht *Unicorn* after Customs found 617 kg of cannabis resin (Susan MacDonald writes). According to French news reports, the three Britons gave their names as Derek Parker, aged 33, from Marsden, Jonathan Mackinnon, aged 24, and Gerald Page, aged 25, both living in Marbella, Spain.

£2m aid Sri Lanka to Maputo bombing

Colombo (Reuters) — The Tamil Eelam separatist guerrillas, the Liberation Tigers, attacked two army camps in the northern Jaffna peninsula of Sri Lanka with mortar bombs throughout last night despite a ceasefire announced by the rebels, the Government said yesterday. There were no casualties.

The Indian High Commissioner in Colombo, Mr J. N. Dixit, was unexpectedly summoned to Delhi on Thursday night by the Indian Prime Minister, Mr Rajiv Gandhi, a High Commission official said.

Treasury chief jailed



New York — Mr Robert Anderson, left, a former US Secretary of the Treasury in the Eisenhower Administration, has been sentenced to a month in prison and five months of house arrest for evading income taxes and running an illegal offshore bank (Charles Bremner writes). Mr Anderson, aged 77, whose signature once appeared on US currency, was also ordered to give compensation to investors who lost some £2.5 million.

Reagan's check-up

Washington — President Reagan underwent a routine six-monthly check-up at the White House yesterday, which a spokesman described as a "regular follow-up endoscopic examination" after the President's colon cancer operation in 1985 (Michael Binyon writes). The results of all check-ups since 1985 have been normal. The White House said before yesterday's examination that Mr Reagan, who is 76, felt completely fit and well.

Nato chief bows out

Mons, Belgium — Under the black clouds of this European summer, General Bernard Rogers, the Supreme Allied Commander, Europe, yesterday handed over command of Allied Forces Europe to General John R. Galvin (Frederick Bonhart writes). Detachments from all of the 13 nations' forces in the command marched past them to mark the end of his eight years' tenure. General Galvin was Commander in Chief of the US Southern Command.

Sharjah ruler returns

Bahrain (Reuters) — Sheikh Sultan bin Muhammad al-Qasbi, the ruler of Sharjah, returned to the emirate last night for the first time since a week-long power struggle with his elder brother ended. He received well-wishers and family members, and is expected to form a new executive council to run the emirate's political and economic affairs.

Court deals fresh blow to Colombia drugs war

From Geoffrey Matthews, Bogotá

The fight against international cocaine smuggling has been dealt a serious setback by a ruling of Colombia's Supreme Court that an extradition treaty with the United States designed to bring drug barons to justice, is unconstitutional.

The "Medellin Cartel", the drug cartel based on the nation's second biggest city, is said to control 80 per cent of world trade in the drug, and the court's decision will make cartel members virtual untouchables. Two alleged traffickers, held in a Bogotá jail pending extradition to the US, were released after the court's ruling late on Thursday. The

release of others is believed to be imminent. This is the second time in seven months that the Supreme Court, operating under the constant pressure of death threats from racketeers, has ruled that the 1979 treaty is unconstitutional. Last December, its decision was swiftly overturned by President Barco, who immediately wrote the treaty back into law. Now the court has ruled his action was unconstitutional.

The US Embassy in Bogotá said yesterday it considered the treaty still to be in effect, but the Government signalled that the pact was indeed dead.

Gorbachov's radical recipe for Stalin's economy

From Christopher Walker, Moscow

Mr Mikhail Gorbachov's marathon speech to the Communist Party's Central Committee on Thursday contained — apart from a devastating analysis of the inefficiencies of the Soviet economy — some unexpectedly radical suggestions for revamping it.

Western economic experts who studied the 111-page text yesterday said it represented a last-ditch attempt to overthrow the centralized economic mechanism set in train by Stalin in the 1930s.

One expert said: "On prices and wages, he went as far as he could under the present circumstances, but in other respects he offered some compromises by stopping short of ordering the wholesale scrapping of the Moscow-based ministries. Instead he called for eventual mergers and pruning in their staff and powers."

The speech paid repeated obeisance to Lenin, but in many key sections read more like the exposition of basic principles in a Western economic textbook. Kremlin-watchers note that

much of the outspoken criticism of current Soviet failings was similar to that voiced by Western observers in recent years. "We must never forget that the purpose of it all is to make the Soviet economy workable, which international will make the country a much more formidable power to deal with," one noted.

With an indirect acknowledgement to the debt owed to Lenin's New Economic Policy, Mr Gorbachov repeatedly dubbed his sweeping programme of reform — the chief architect of which was the brilliant Soviet economist, Professor Abel Aganbegyan — "the New Economic Mechanism," and set an ambitious three-year deadline for its implementation.

As a symbol of the changes called for, Mr Gorbachov cited the example of a tyre factory in the Siberian city of Omsk. It consistently produced on time, he said, tyres 50 per cent lighter in quality than those from other Soviet factories, whose products are notoriously poor.

"However, does the work collective enjoy any benefits for this?" he asked

pointedly. "In point of fact, it has no advantages, either in the wage growth rate or in the social field. And anyone explain the following paradox: customers pay the same price to the Omsk Amalgamation for its tyres, whose quality is the best in the country, as to other factories."

At times, his terminology would not have looked out of place at a British Conservative Party election rally, although he was insistent in ruling out recent suggestions by some of the most radical Soviet economic thinkers that unemployment may be used as an economic weapon.

"How can an economy make progress if it offers hot-house conditions for laggards while hitting front-runners," he demanded at one stage, in what appeared open encouragement for a new breed of Soviet "nuppies."

He also said specifically that no limits should be imposed on salaries, if they were geared to talent and the amount and quality of work put in.

"We certainly may not continue in the same rot any longer," he said in a

speech noted for its clarity of economic expression. "The New Economic Mechanism should put everything in place. It should provide a powerful lever and incentives for good, enterprising and resourceful work."

Foreign diplomats have little doubt that one of the most formidable tasks facing Mr Gorbachov before his self-declared 1990 deadline will be the reform of the antiquated and miscalculated Soviet pricing system. Because of it, he said, "normal economic relations in the national economy are simply impossible."

Recognizing his problems in this crucial sphere — perhaps the most sensitive in view of its bearing on the everyday lives of Soviet citizens — Mr Gorbachov told the plenary meeting: "In view of the political and social significance of the reform of pricing, it must become the subject of the broadest discussion in the country."

Among ordinary Muscovites yesterday, scepticism remained widespread that the fine words in Mr Gorbachov's historic address would ever be transformed into action.

Own goals tarnish image of US armed forces

These are difficult days for the US armed forces. Their image, which shone so bright when their commander-in-chief rode high and flag-waving was back in fashion, is beginning to tarnish. Weapons, policy, men, morale — all now seem to be in trouble.

The pride of the services, the Marine Corps, has suffered two devastating blows and appears to be full of either zealots or traitors. Lieutenant-Colonel Oliver North has made his excesses and escapades inseparable from his Marine training and ethos: the go-getting, no-nonsense, anti-communist, gun-ho action man, with blind devotion to his President and country and little time for conventional laws and limitations.

What is worse, the "American hero", as President Reagan called him, seemed to violate even his disciplined code by spending arms profits on groceries, hosiery, snow-tires and items that were at best marginal to the ideological struggle in Central America. The Iran-Contra hearings have also uncovered the shady network of Colonel North's military contacts — men

such as Major-General Richard Secord and retired General John Singlaub, head of a private anti-communist organization, whose sense of patriotic duty became increasingly muddled with mercenary gain.

And what of the Marines in Moscow? Were they so venal that female Soviet agents could seduce

Washington View

By Michael Binyon

them into opening the doors to allow KGB officers to roam freely through the US Embassy? Was it one of the greatest security lapses of all time, as originally claimed? The recent dropping of spying charges suggests rather that the notoriously tough Marine Corps overdid its "intensive interrogation", extracting confessions under duress when the only real charge was that the young men had had affairs with some Soviet women and were afraid to admit it.

Either way, it reflects badly on the service. The new commander,

promising to restore morale, admitted: "We must do better."

It is an unhappy coincidence that questions are now being asked of another service with proud and honourable traditions, the US Navy. The missiles that hit the USS Stark damaged more than just that frigate. They revealed lapses and sloppiness that have led to the removal of her captain and two fellow officers and their probable court-martial. Questions are being asked about the value of surface ships so vulnerable to Exocets; the strategy that put the frigates in the Gulf is also under question. The plan to protect Kuwaiti tankers has caused near-panic in Congress, where senators suddenly see a shooting war looming that the American people are not prepared to support. Memories are being revived of the appalling Marine casualties in Lebanon and the humiliating pull-out in 1983.

Indeed, it is not just military policy in the Gulf that is under attack. The Pentagon's tough stand on spending, arms control, strategic defence and weapons procurement has been harshly criticized in congressional resolutions.

Even the politicians have voiced public disagreement with the views of the military. Mr George Shultz, the Secretary of State, called recent warnings by General Bernard Rogers, the retiring Supreme Allied Commander — that the US was "rushing" into an arms control agreement — "entirely incorrect" and "ridiculous". Money is a main reason for the country's growing disenchantment with the Pentagon.

Americans applauded the military build-up at the start of the Reagan Administration — it was part of America's showing its muscle and standing tall. But after almost seven fat years people now think that the Pentagon has had enough.

They believe that the Defence Secretary, Mr Casper Weinberger, the champion of further spending, has cried wolf once too often. They are increasingly deaf to the President's television pleas to give him the money to "finish the job".

A sceptical public points to much-publicized \$600 (£370) toilet seats, to criminal overcharging by the big arms manufacturers, to weapons that have had to be cancelled because they could not shoot

straight. Only two weeks ago Northrop Corporation was having to defend itself against accusations that the guidance system on the MX nuclear weapon was so inaccurate that the giant missile might go off course.

All the woes and rows about the military are not related. But they come at a time when the flag of patriotism in which President Reagan wrapped himself and the US armed forces is beginning to look a bit tattered. The cumulative effect is to erode the standing of the military to the point where it is now suffering from a worse image than at any time since the Vietnam War.

With every bizarre new twist to the North saga, the old suspicions of what military men will get up to if put in power are hardened. With every new arms-control initiative from Moscow, Administration insistence on nuclear testing or missile development is less convincing. With every new projection for massive spending to develop SDI (Star Wars), Congress is emboldened to cut the Pentagon budget. It seems certain that lean years for the military will now follow the fat.

Syrians plan to let Amal allies fight their battles

From Robert Fisk, west Beirut

The Syrians are plotting to set Shia Muslim fighting against Shia Muslim in west Beirut in an attempt to walk the tight-rope between winning favour with the United States and offending Iran.

Fearful of the political and military consequences of storming into the Shia Muslim southern suburbs to rescue kidnapped foreigners, they now plan to rearm and reorganize their Shia Muslim Amal militia allies, who they hope can take on the hundreds of Hezbollah gunmen in the one area of west Beirut that Syria does not control.

In this way, according to militia sources close to the Syrians, they hope to extract at least some of the hostages from the hands of their captors and to find favour with the Americans — but still to retain their political and economic links with Tehran, from which they receive a million tons of free oil a year.

The Syrians believe that Mr Charles Glass, the American journalist kidnapped in west Beirut last week, is now in the southern suburbs of the capital after having been smuggled through their lines shortly after his abduction on a rarely-used road near the airport.

But although two of the Lebanese men held responsible for the kidnapping of foreigners in Lebanon over the past 2½ years are now reported to be in Tehran, the Syrians believe it unlikely that any hostages have been taken to Iran for the "trial" which one Beirut magazine says is in store for them.

Mr Imad Moughni, who is regarded as the principal leader of the pro-Iranian Islamic Jihad movement holding two Americans captive, fled Beirut in the early spring — apparently frightened of Syrian retribution. He is now reported to be in Tehran, along with a brother of Mr Muhammad Ali Hamadei, the Lebanese arrested in Germany for allegedly having planned the hijack of the American TWA jet in 1985.

Mr Moughni, once a bodyguard to Sheikh Mohamed Hussein Fadlallah, a spiritual leader of Hezbollah, was on good terms with the Syrian security services in the early 1980s, when the Syrians supported Lebanese groups opposed to the presence of the multinational force in Beirut.

But those days are now over and Washington's courting of Damascus — demonstrated by President Reagan's personal letter to President Assad — has changed Syria's policies in Lebanon radically.

They still wish to avoid a total break with Iran and have thus decided, according to the militia sources, that the fractured Amal movement will have to be rebuilt to counter Hezbollah influence. As another Shia official commented: "The Syrians are going to use an old tactic: getting the Shias to fight the Shias."

In Tehran yesterday, the Speaker of the Iranian Parliament, Hojatoleslam Ali Akbar Hashemi Rafsanjani, expressed his own concern at Syria's plans. "In Lebanon, there is a smell of a plot," he told worshippers at Friday prayers. "It appears that they (the Americans) are putting pressure on the Syrians to fight the Hezbollah. Of course, we don't believe that our Syrian brothers would make such a mistake. But the Americans... are after this."

Syria is now projecting two men as spiritual and political leaders of a nationalist Shia movement: Sheikh Mohamed Mehdi Shamseddin, chairman of the Shia Higher Council, and Mr Akel Hamieh, Amal's military commander. Sheikh Mohamed's role will be to counter the influence of Sheikh Muhammad Fadlallah, while Mr Hamieh's task will be to stiffen the backbone of a military organization that has broken apart under the leadership of Mr Nabih Berri. Mr Berri is to remain nominal president of Amal.

None of this is likely to please Iran — or its Hezbollah supporters in west Beirut. The presence of Mr Moughni and Mr Abdul Hadi Hamadei in Tehran led the Lebanese magazine *ash-Shiraa* to claim today that they were there to testify at the "trial" of two US hostages secretly transferred from Beirut. Pro-Syrian sources, however, say the report was planted by Iranians to focus attention on their own primary responsibility for the lives of the American and other captives.



Hojatoleslam Rafsanjani: Feels he can smell a plot.

Break for a joke in royal walkabout



Prince Edward, who is touring the maritime provinces of Canada, jokes with a group of Indian performers during a walkabout in Fredericton, the capital of New Brunswick.

Key US judge resigns

From Michael Binyon, Washington

Justice Lewis Powell, a Supreme Court judge for 15 years, announced yesterday that he is retiring because of his age and poor health. He has played a pivotal role in holding the balance between conservatives and liberals in the nine-member court.

His surprise resignation, announced shortly after he left the bench for the last time, gives President Reagan the chance to change the court's ideological balance by making his third appointment, who is likely to be a conservative.

The leading contenders are Judge Robert Bork, an Appeal Court judge in the District of Columbia, and Senator Orrin Hatch, a conservative Republican from Utah.

Judge Bork is respected widely in legal circles, and this may make it easier for him to be confirmed by the Democratic-controlled Senate, which is sure to challenge any strongly conservative candidate. Senator Hatch, currently a member of the Iran-Contra investigating committee and one of President Reagan's strongest defenders, would garner "courtesy" support from fellow senators.

Justice Powell, who is 79 and has suffered from prostate cancer, said that his health had not been robust. He has been the man in the middle ever since his appointment by President Nixon in 1972. Each year he has cast fewer dissenting votes than any of the other eight members.

Ancient replica off to sea

From Mario Modiano, Athens

Zeus willing, a full reconstruction of an Athenian trireme, predecessor of the Roman *trireme*, will be launched today in Perama, not far from Salamis where the warship proved its mettle by defeating the Persian fleet in 480 BC and, some argue, changing the course of history.

Its modern version, a joint Anglo-Greek venture, is a shallow but sturdy wooden ship — 120 ft long, 18 ft wide — that can pack 170 oarsmen tightly in its sleek hull.

The original ship, fast and highly manoeuvrable, could ram and sink enemy ships with a deadly effectiveness that still baffles the experts.

The *trieres* was taken yesterday on a trailer platform

from its boatyard shed to the nearest dock 200 yards away. Later today she will be craned in gently.

Mr John Costes, a former Defence Ministry naval architect who produced the designs for the reconstruction, is quite confident. "There is only one workable design as regards the fundamentals of the *trieres* that accords with all the existing evidence," he said. "And this is it."

Years of research by Professor John Morrison, the Cambridge classical scholar, enabled the blueprints to be produced.

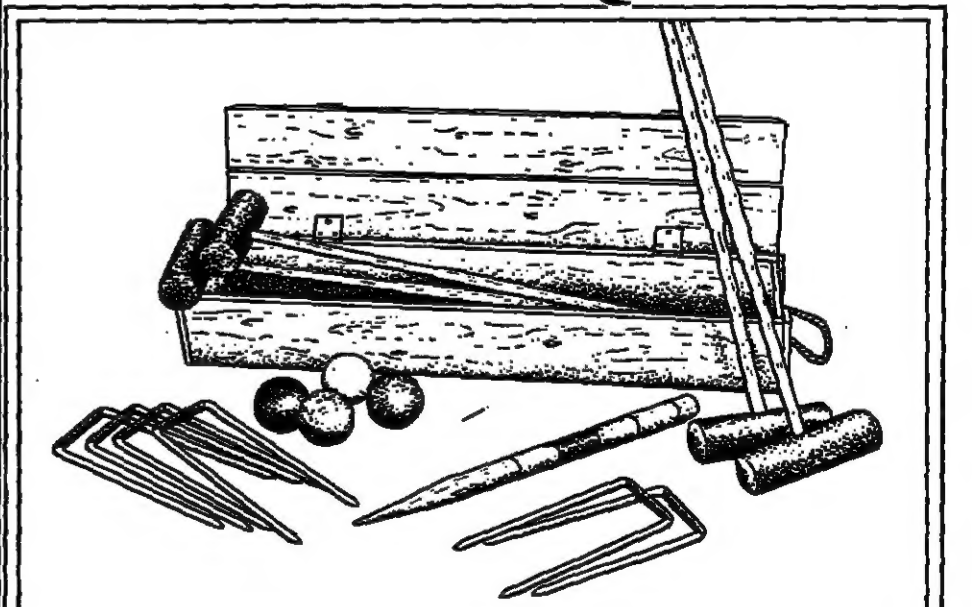
Some 230 British volunteers, including 38 women, are expected here towards the end of next month to row during

the sea trials. By then the finishing touches to the *trieres* — masts, sails and rudders — will be complete.

The vessel, which cost £500,000 to build, was built for the Greek Navy. Before the sea trials she will be taken to the Navy dockyard at Salamis to be "inclined and swamped" — the first to find her centre of gravity, the second to fill her up with water to see what happens.

The length of the vessel's oars, the manner in which the oarsmen are placed and the overall performance of the ship formed the object of a long correspondence in *The Times* in 1975 which eventually added impetus to the idea of building a *trieres*.

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Pretoria 'ready' for talks with Mandela on future of blacks

From Ray Kennedy, Johannesburg

A significant shift in South African Government thinking on negotiations with black leaders and organizations has been revealed by Mr Stoffel van der Merwe, the new Deputy Minister of Constitutional Planning.

He says that he has no objection "in principle" to talking to people in detention or in jail, and that this includes Nelson Mandela.

Mr Van der Merwe, who was interviewed on state-controlled television, added that he was "not going to present a note to a guy which one has to sign saying 'I hereby renounce all violence' before I start talking to him". Until now President Botha has been adamant that he will not involve Mandela in negotiations until he signs just such an undertaking.

Mr Van der Merwe, who is also Deputy Minister of Information, was appointed to his new post after the white general election last month.

Despite the swing to the

right which saw the hardline Conservative Party become the official Opposition, President Botha said the electorate had given him "an overwhelming mandate to negotiate with representative leaders of our black communities and groups about our common future". He said that he intended to become more personally involved in the search for peaceful answers.

Mr Van der Merwe, in his interview, said that he was prepared to talk to the United Democratic Front, the largest extra-parliamentary anti-government organization in the country, because it would be "silly" to rule out of negotiations any person connected with the Front.

He indicated that the National Statutory Council, which President Botha has said will be set up this year, should be regarded as a proposal for the agenda of the talks.

The Council would be the first direct input for blacks to the legislative and executive

processes. Although it would at first be an advisory body, it would be "better than what we've got now".

A mechanism, possibly elections, would have to be found to identify representative leaders, Mr Van der Merwe said. "Everybody should participate. In the end, every person must have a vote," he added.

Yesterday, in a series of full-page advertisements in major newspapers, the Front announced that it is to adopt the Freedom Charter which was drawn up 32 years ago. Mr Murphy Morobe, its acting publicity secretary, said that the charter, which clearly sets out the organization's vision of a non-racial and democratic South Africa, had the overwhelming support of the voteless black majority as well as enjoying growing support among whites.

The adoption of the charter is a setback for more radical black groups, such as the Azanian People's Organization, which reject it.

Struggle for democracy on Seoul streets



A young customer trying on a gas mask sold by a street vendor in Seoul yesterday; and Mr Kim Young Sam, the opposition leader, right, being manhandled by police into a van at his party headquarters after trying to join an anti-government march.

Fear of ill-effects from Chun's tear gas

From David Watts, Seoul

The tear gas used by the South Korean Government is a formidable cocktail of 12 different ingredients, the exact composition of which is a military secret.

It apparently contains some of the elements of such gases used in Western countries but in heavier concentrations and in different combinations.

Students and foreign journalists subjected to repeated doses of the gas have come out in blisters akin to second-degree burns. Some people gasp for air, others retch; and

all are temporarily blinded if caught without a gas mask.

There are several different types of gas, some more powerful than others, and the Korean Army is known to have four different grades. Grade one is used against rioters; grade two against rioters; grade three by police facing armed and dangerous criminals; and grade four in war only.

The Government claims that it has used only up to grade two in the last 17 days of unrest. Several times a night in recent days tear gas bar- rages have brought *The Times* news-gathering activities to a tearful, gasping halt.

The gas is so vicious and its side-effects cause such fear among South Koreans that an anti-tear gas day was held last week. The government responded - with tear gas.

According to opposition sources, a Government report on the effects of the gas showed it so dangerous to humans, bringing a risk not only of cancer but of male infertility, that it was kept secret.

The Rev Lee Chooing Bok, a priest from Taejeon, said: "We don't know what the effects of the gas are, but we're afraid that in the future our children will have two heads."

But President Chun swears by it.

The gas grenades are thrown, or fired from launchers - either singly or in

barrages of 64. CS for Britain: Police in British have bought stocks of CS gas for riot control. But this form of tear gas is not nearly so potent as the variety now in use in the streets of Seoul (Our Defence Correspondent writes). CS gas is not intended to have any short-term or long-term ill effects on rioters. It is non-toxic and non-persistent, but creates a choking sensation and causes tears in the eyes.

Countdown to crisis in South Korea

Seoul (Reuters) - Key events in the crisis in South Korea have been:

1986
Apr 30. President Chun Doo Hwan yields to pressure, authorizes reform debate.
June 24. National Assembly sets up committee for amending constitution.
Aug 25. Mr Chun's party proposes parliamentary system of government.
Sept 29. Opposition New Korea Democratic Party boycotts committee amid street and university confrontations.
Dec 3. Opposition vows street war to end Mr Chun's "military dictatorship".

Dec 24. NKDP leader, Mr Lee Min Woo, startles Opposition by saying party could accept parliamentary system.

1987
Jan 7. Mr Kim Dae Jung and Mr Kim Young Sam, NKDP's two main factional leaders, disavow Mr Lee.
Jan 14. Student activist dies from police torture. Public anger and political uproar.
Apr 10. Mr Kim Dae Jung under house arrest after he agrees with Mr Kim Young Sam to form new hardline party.
Apr 13. Mr Chun bans constitutional reform talks until after 1988 Olympics.

May 18. Leading Catholic priest reveals police cover-up of torture death.

June 10. DJF endorses Mr Chun's choice as successor. Tens of thousands protest.
June 11. 400 students hold cathedral.
June 15. Cathedral protest ends. 60,000 in fresh street and campus clashes.
June 18. Violence erupts. Government hints at martial law imposition.
June 24. Mr Chun meets Mr Kim Young Sam, agrees to lift ban on electoral reform debate and to free Mr Kim Dae Jung.
June 25. Opposition demands referendum on voting system.

All feared dead in Philippine air crash

Manila (AP) - A Philippine Airlines aircraft with 50 people on board crashed yesterday into a mountain in northern Luzon, officials said. First reports said there were no survivors.

An airline spokesman said the twin-engine aircraft was on a one-hour flight from Manila to Baguio City, a resort some 130 miles to the north. Timber workers first at the scene said they found one survivor, who later died.

Statues found

Peking (AP) - Archaeologists unearthed 1,700 terracotta statues in Houwanzhang village in Hebei province, eastern China. They were in the 1,400-year-old tomb of a Qi dynasty emperor.

Palme honour

Moscow (Reuters) - A Moscow street is to be named after Olof Palme, the late Swedish Prime Minister, according to *Moskovskaya Pravda*, an official Soviet newspaper.

Rebels killed

Managua (Reuters) - Six Nicaraguan rebels were killed and one was wounded when up to 200 insurgents attacked a northern Nicaraguan village.

New dinosaur

Peking (Reuters) - Chinese scientists have discovered the fossil of a previously unknown 70 ft-long dinosaur which lived in Inner Mongolia more than 130 million years ago.

Balloon delay

New York - Bad weather has further delayed Mr Richard Branson's attempt to become the first man to cross the Atlantic by hot-air balloon.

Arab killed

Rome (Reuters) - An Arab, believed to be Algerian, was shot dead by two Libyan men in a Rome street, police said. The Libyans were arrested.

Kurdish raid

Diyarbakir (Reuters) - Kurdish rebels killed one villager and injured five others near this south-east Turkish town.

Family shot

Islamabad (Reuters) - Seven family members and a servant were shot dead by a neighbour in a revenge killing.

Afrikaner church facing racial split

From Ray Kennedy, Johannesburg

The influential Establishment church of South African Afrikanerdom, the Nederduitse Gereformeerde Kerk (NGK), is on the brink of a split which could result in right-wing members forming a new church which would cater only for Afrikaners and would refuse membership to blacks.

The threatened schism, which has assumed considerable political overtones, is over a controversial policy statement, "Church and Society," which condemns apartheid and declares that the church should be open to all races. The document was accepted at the NGK's synod in Cape Town last year.

The dissident movement, which calls itself the Continuation Committee for Dissatisfied Members, is to hold a rally today at the Skilpadsaal (Tortoise Hall) in Pretoria, where the ultra-right Conservative Party was launched in 1982; busloads of people from NGK congregations in the

Orange Free State and other right-wing outposts in the northern and western Transvaal are expected to attend the rally, at which demands will be made for the policy statement to be revoked.

Unless the demands are met, the dissidents, led by Professor William Lubbe, a right-wing theologian, are determined to establish a breakaway church, probably called the Afrikanse Gereformeerde Kerk. The new church is reported already to have held a *wagman* (communion service), inconspicuously in Durban, one of South Africa's most English cities.

Dr Andries Treurnicht, the Conservative Party leader, once an NGK minister and editor of its official journal, *Die Kerkbode*, projected the row firmly into the political arena this week when he called for the revision of "Church and Society" and said that the political convictions of many Conservative Party members

were affected directly by church decisions such as those reflected in the document. He called on both dissidents and "responsible leaders in the church" to do their utmost to avoid a split.

His intervention has been described as hypocritical in some NGK circles, which have accused him of trying to make political capital through the controversy. One *dominee* (minister) said: "If the right wing chooses to go it alone, they will be setting the church free."

Professor Lubbe and his Continuation Committee for Dissatisfied Members have produced their own document, "Faith and Protest," to counter "Church and Society". It maintains that the separate existence and development of nations is in accord with Scripture, that mixed marriages are unacceptable, and that the Afrikaner people has the right to reserve membership of its church.

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Kosovo Serbs in march on party leaders in Belgrade

From Dossa Trevisan, Belgrade

Several hundred Serbs from the Kosovo region of Yugoslavia arrived in Belgrade yesterday morning to carry out a controversial protest march as the Communist Party's Central Committee began a meeting in an attempt to solve the region's Serbian-Albanian ethnic friction.

The Serbs came by rail and road, some travelling through the night, and marched to the park opposite Parliament to stand silently as the Central Committee met to hear a report by Mr Marko Orlandic, a member of the party Praesidium. This gave a warning that the Kosovo problem is threatening to undermine the nation's stability unless a solution can be found guaranteeing harmony between the two communities.

"We have come to Belgrade to let the leadership know that our hopes are dwindling and our patience has come to an end," one of the protesters told a crowd of onlookers.

"Unless the Central Committee comes up with proper solutions that would guarantee us our lives and property free from the pressures of

Albanian separatists, there is nothing left for us but either to take up arms in self-defence or move out altogether."

Mr Orlandic told the Central Committee that the situation in Kosovo, six years after the Albanian riots, represented a serious threat to stability, and accused Albania of inciting Albanian nationalism in Kosovo. Such accusations have been rejected by the Albanian Communist Party leader, Mr Ramiz Alia, who on Thursday blamed Yugoslavia for the bad state of Yugoslav-Albanian relations.

It was not the fault of Tirana, he said, that relations were burdened by complicated problems. Yugoslavia had recently proposed the convocation of a conference of Balkan foreign ministers, but Mr Alia said that there could be no confidence or good-neighbourliness as long as the Yugoslav authorities maintained a "high wall" preventing Albanians in Kosovo from communicating with Albania.

Relations between the communities have deteriorated to the point where segregation is complete.



Babe in arms: Feeding time came first for a US soldier at the Berlin preview yesterday of the Army Brigade July 4 parade.

Gurkha separatist struggle

Police chief faces a determined enemy

From Gavin Bell Darjeeling

The Indian police officer in charge of quelling Gurkha unrest in the Himalayan state of West Bengal is under no illusion about the determination of his adversaries.

Since being appointed to the district capital of Darjeeling in December, Deputy Inspector-General R.K. Handa has survived three attempts on his life. His right hand is scarred by a shrapnel wound inflicted in a bomb attack a few hours after a sniper had narrowly missed him with several shots.

"I can still hear the bullets whizzing past. I suppose he must have been a bad shot," says Mr Handa.

The tough, 45-year-old Punjabi does not appear unduly concerned about the close attention of the Gurkha National Liberation Front. He shrugs his powerful shoulders and chuckles: "It's all part of the game."

His immediate concern is to end the nightly waves of bomb and arson attacks that have been sweeping his three hill sub-divisions since the GNLF declared a general strike last Saturday in support of demands for a separate state.

Since then more than 70 government buildings have been hit, with damage estimated at £3.5 million.

The violence took a sinister

turn this week when police came under gunfire on a narrow mountain road and two officers were seriously wounded. Surgeons at Darjeeling hospital had to operate on them by torchlight, since the GNLF had sabotaged the town's power supplies.

"The autonomy movement has fallen into the hands of riff-raff," Mr Handa says.

Surgeons had to operate on policemen by torchlight

"Unless we act firmly it could get worse. It may assume alarming proportions."

On Tuesday the state authorities invoked an anti-terrorist Act, under which an emergency court has been convened to expedite the trials of alleged GNLF guerrillas. The court is sitting at Shiliguri, about 50 miles from Darjeeling in the Bengal plains, where 72 men have been taken to face charges of murder, arson and looting.

Mr Handa estimates the strength of GNLF hard-core militants at around 1,000 men. Against them are ranged 23 companies of paramilitary police totalling 1,500 men, which is far short of the superiority generally considered necessary to combat a guerrilla campaign.

However, the police chief

remains confident. "We know who they are. Our intelligence is good. It's only a matter of time before we get them."

Mr Handa directs most of his operations from the two-storey colonial bungalow that is the summer residence of the West Bengal Chief Minister.

Yesterday a small group of Gurkha women waited for three hours at the gate, sheltering under umbrellas from the monsoon rains. They included an anxious teenage girl, cradling a one-month-old baby, whose husband had been arrested and taken to Shiliguri the previous night.

Eventually Mr Handa emerged, dressed casually in Indian clothes and a shawl, to hear pleas that their menfolk were innocent. This was untrue, he told them. These men were the cause of the trouble. However, if any had been arrested by mistake, he would ensure their release.

When he walked back to the house the women remained standing silent in the gathering gloom. It was going to be a long and miserable vigil.

About 100 ft higher up the hillside stands a similar residence, where Darjeeling's remarkably youthful District Commissioner ponders the Gurkha unrest with dismay.

At 31, Mr D.P. Patra is the youngest such officer in West Bengal. He too bears scars on a

hand and leg from a bomb attack. On one occasion, he leaped to safety seconds before a boulder dislodged by GNLF militants smashed on to the roof of his car.

"It is very worrying," he says. "The violence was beyond our expectations. We have never seen such a concerted campaign against government targets anywhere in the country."

Mr Patra has no doubt he is facing a well-co-ordinated offensive. "This is not the work of isolated groups. They have a lot of explosives and the expertise to use them. We are also getting reports that they are arming themselves."

He says that, for the moment, the situation is under control. But when a photographer asks directions to a mountain road cut by the

The violence was beyond all our expectations

GNLF during the night, he advises against the trip.

"You may find that by the time you come back, they will have cut the road in another place behind you."

Outside, the wind and torrential rain gather strength. "This," he adds unnecessarily, "would be rather uncomfortable for you."

Hong Kong fears on China's plans

From David Bonavia, Hong Kong

Confusion over China's intentions for the political future of Hong Kong is mounting after the repudiation of a statement on the issue by a senior Chinese Government official and the flying visit last weekend by Mr Wu Xueqian, the Chinese Foreign Minister.

Mr Li Hou, a senior official responsible for relations with Hong Kong, has denied that he ruled out direct elections here. Since then a Peking Foreign Ministry official has condemned attempts by the Hong Kong Government to introduce democratic institutions, saying that they would violate the principle of "convergence".



Sir David Wilson: Facing a potential political crisis.

With the basic law (or mini-constitution) for the territory now being drafted, visa applications by Hong Kong Chinese wanting to enter Canada and the United States have soared recently, and police and British soldiers have struggled to stem an unusually high flow of Chinese refugees into the territory. Unless handled with steadiness, the situation has the makings of a serious political crisis for the new Governor, Sir David Wilson.

A British Army officer has said that the border fence separating Hong Kong from the mainland is not strong enough to resist a determined push by Chinese misled into believing there is to be an amnesty here for illegal immigrants. The number of people trying to enter Hong Kong illegally has leapt to more than 100 a day; most are caught by

border security forces and repatriated automatically to China unless they can show good reason for needing political asylum.

Despite the ban on illegal immigrants, wages here are so much higher than in China that the territory is a permanent magnet even though it is to revert to China in 1997.

Some observers here are already comparing the situation to that of 1978, when more than 100,000 Chinese refugees entered Hong Kong and forced the Government to abandon its humanitarian "touch base" policy. This policy, in effect since the 1950s, allowed illegal immigrants who could reach urban areas without being caught to take jobs and obtain identity documents.

The policy was abandoned in the late 1970s because of the sheer pressure of numbers, which means that those illegal immigrants who do get through the border today are often recruited into organized prostitution, drug-dealing and other forms of crime.

The situation is particularly serious because it reflects growing friction between the governments of China and Britain and the British-dominated Hong Kong Government over the question of direct elections to the territory legislature.

Two years ago the Government here organized indirect elections to the legislative council, and has now published a Green Paper on the prospect of further democratic reforms. Peking objects to these on the ground that Britain has ruled Hong Kong undemocratically for the past 150 years and has no business introducing Western-style political institutions now that it is to become a "special administrative region" of the People's Republic of China.

Most people here continue to pin their hopes on the Chinese Government's realization of the economic consequences for itself of destabilizing Hong Kong, which still provides much of its foreign exchange.

Seven left-wing parties form coalition in Chile

From Lake Sagaris, Santiago

Seven of Chile's most important left-wing parties chose yesterday to launch Izquierda Unida (IU), the first important coalition of the left in 14 years of military rule.

It was the birthday of Dr Salvador Allende, Chile's former Socialist president, who led a similar coalition, Popular Unity, to electoral victory in 1970. He was killed when the military overthrew his government three years later.

Dr Allende's former vice-president, Señor Clodomiro Almeyda, will head the new coalition. He returned illegally from exile in March and is in jail. Señor Fernando Luengo of the Radical Party, which governed Chile in the late 30s, will lead the coalition until his release.

The moderate Christian Left Party played a leading role in forming the new grouping. Since the coup, most left-wing parties, and particularly the Socialists, have divided constantly. This is the first significant move towards rebuilding a Chilean Left with a power base similar to that which was once enjoyed by Popular Unity.

The IU includes a smaller left-wing coalition formed in

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SPORTING DIARY

Simon Barnes

Windsor portcullis

Two weeks ago I remarked on the failure of the Hurlingham Polo Association, the sport's governing body in Britain, to acknowledge that the war with Argentina is over. On Wednesday the association's council will meet to discuss changing tack and permitting crack Argentine players to play here again. The motion will be proposed by the Marquess of Waterford and will have a lot of support, but nevertheless is likely to be defeated. For Windsor, which to polo is the equivalent of Liverpool FC and Wimbledon, combined, to soccer — is firmly against the idea. The very top polo people say they would not want Prince Charles to be put in the embarrassing position of being asked to play alongside Argentines until diplomatic relations are restored. This strikes me as excessively nice-minded, since the players would not be representing their country. Meanwhile, the Great Britain men's hockey team is preparing to meet Argentina in the Champions Trophy in Amsterdam next week.

Il scoopa

fan Rush, now a Juventus player, dines with the London branch of the Juventus supporters club tonight as he begins to learn what Italian football is all about. For example, to escape the Italian press ferment over his move he recently went on holiday to Mauritius. And there, just happening to be at the hotel poolside and looking forward to a chat, was the London correspondent of *Gazzetta dello Sport*. But the Italian press can do even better than that. When *Corriere dello Sport* picked up a rumour that the presidents of Napoli and Sampdoria planned a secret meeting on a boat in the middle of the Bay of Naples to discuss a possible £5-million transfer, they hired a fishing boat, disguised a photographer as a fisherman and rushed the resulting snap by road from Naples to Rome in 90 minutes.

Gentle sex

Not one but two women jockeys were each fined £100 for excessive use of the whip after a race at Ripon this week. They were Geraldine Rees, the only woman to have completed the Grand National, and Beryl McCain, wife of Ginger, trainer of Red Rum. And both were well out of the reckoning at the time.

Unlucky escape

There is no point in having bad luck unless you really revel in it. Take Nigel Mansell's recent musings on that famous tyre shredding incident that ended his chances of winning the world championship last season. If only he had crashed just a fraction earlier! He said the Adelaide clerk of the course had told him that he had hit the wall, and had the damage been severe enough, the race might have been stopped; and because it was more than three quarters through, it would not have been restarted. "I would have been classified as third," Mansell said, "enough to win the title. What sort of luck do you call that?" Well, I'd call it good luck, actually. Mansell is alive, isn't he?

Cowpuncher

You can't be a proper boxer without a decent nickname, so I was devastated to learn that Mike "The Bounty" Hunter has been ordered to drop his nickname, and to curb his habit of entering the ring dressed as a Western gunfighter. To make matters worse, Doug "Dig 'em up" Davis has lapsed into inactivity. But the crushing blow has come with the retirement of Mexican boxer Juan "Lobster" Fernandez.

Wide boys

As my hunt for bizarre cricket matches continues, the strange and extraordinary world of prep school cricket opens up before me. A.S.R. Pyper writes to tell me of a match between Brambley and Stoke Brunswick. Brambley were all out for 15, "which can be a respectable score in these circles," Stoke Brunswick replied by losing six wickets for no runs "at which point the opposition bowler became so excited that he delivered five wides in a row. However, the rest of Stoke Brunswick were dismissed without any further addition to the score: all out for five wides." Mr. Pyper, then headmaster of Stoke Brunswick, writes with some feeling.

BARRY FANTONI



Stephen Hawking and Werner Israel outline a new theory on the nature of the universe
300 years after Newton's classic work that paved the way for all future discovery

From apple fall to superstring

July 5 marks the 300th anniversary of Sir Isaac Newton's crowning achievement, publication of the third and final book of *The Mathematical Principles of Natural Philosophy*, generally known as the *Principia*. It changed forever man's view of the universe, and of his place in it.

Next week, 120 scientists will gather at Trinity College, Cambridge, Newton's home for 25 years, in recognition of the work's profound achievement. They will chart developments from the foundation laid by Newton to the most recent ideas on black holes, gravitational waves and the beginning of the universe.

In an age that showers new discoveries upon us daily, what can a 300-year-old book, however famous, offer other than dry bones for historians to pick over? Was not Newton's theory superseded long ago by Einstein's? The answer is no. Newton's theory will never be outmoded. Designed to predict the motions of heavenly bodies, it does its job with unbelievable accuracy — better than one part in a hundred million for the motion of the earth around the sun — and it remains in daily use to predict the orbits of moons and planets, comets and spacecraft.

Einstein, standing on Newton's shoulders, erected a theory which is far more difficult to use, yet leads to virtually identical predictions (in those few instances where the tiny differences are just large enough to measure, the advantage lies with Einstein).

Newton was a colossus without parallel in the history of science. No mere armchair theorist, but an experimentalist of consummate skill (he once described himself as

"a practical lens-grinder"), his optical researches would have assured him of immortal fame if he had done nothing else. A reflecting telescope that he built at the age of 29 was only 6in long yet so perfectly designed that it outclassed the best 6ft refractors of the day. Exhibited in London, it caused a sensation and led to his election to the Royal Society. Asked where he had got the tools to make this marvel, he laughingly replied that he had made them himself.

This sovereign independence and tenacity was the hallmark of all his work. The aim he set for himself in the *Principia* was Olympian: to establish the law of gravitation beyond a shadow of doubt by showing that it could account in minutest detail for all motions in the solar system, the tides, the shape and the wobble of the earth. It was a task far beyond the reach of all the mathematical techniques of his time, but in his early twenties he had privately forged his own tool: the calculus.

Nearly all the pieces that were later fitted together and expanded in the *Principia* took shape in his mind during the golden period 1665-1667, when an outbreak of plague closed Cambridge and he returned to his family home in Woolsthorpe for quiet reflection. It was there that the legendary apple dropped.

It is all too easy to trivialize this story, which may be true. Anyone can watch an apple fall and

ruminate about a force of gravity. It took the genius of Newton to leap from there to the idea that it was the same force that caused the moon to drop from its natural motion in a straight line, to calculate at once the amount by



which it dropped and from that to infer the inverse-square law; in short, to leap from terrestrial gravity to a simple and universal law of gravitation. This was the crystallization of a new dream, of which Kepler and Galileo had had inklings before him: to uncover the simple mathematical laws which appear to govern all nature.

Newton was well aware that the majestic picture of the world that he painted in the *Principia* was far from complete; there are other forces besides gravity. But the "accurate determination and demonstration of their laws", he decided, would have to await a "sufficiency of experiments".

Indeed, it was two centuries before the Scottish physicist, James Clerk Maxwell, under the stimulus of the experiments and insights of Michael Faraday, took the next great leap: a unified field theory of the electric and magnetic forces, which, as an added bonus,

explained light as an electromagnetic vibration.

For 20th-century physicists, Maxwell's great synthesis has been the inspiration and the model for the holy grail that Einstein sought in vain for the last 30 years of his life: a grand unified "theory of everything" that would comprehend all of nature within a single mathematical scheme. In the last two decades physicists have made much progress towards this by combining ideas borrowed from Maxwell's theory with the quantum principle. The essence of this principle is that the constituents of matter as well as the basic forces that act between them have a dual character: they have both particle and wave-like properties.

Present unification schemes are still flawed and incomplete; gravity has not yet been brought into the fold. However, in the past two years the world of physics has been swept by a stunning idea that offers hope of overcoming this last hurdle — that the elementary constituents of the universe are nothing but different modes of vibration of tiny stringlike loops, called "superstrings".

It is too early to tell whether this idea will vindicate the high hopes now vested in it by many, or whether we must seek in other directions for the ultimate theory of nature. But it is an inspiring thought that we may yet see in our time the culmination of the revolution begun 300 years ago by the *Principia*.

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Stephen Hawking is Lucasian Professor of Mathematics at Cambridge; Werner Israel is Professor of Physics at the University of Alberta, Canada. Their book, 300 years of Gravitation, is published by Cambridge University Press next month.

Sue Cameron assesses Whitehall reaction to the new Cabinet

Fortune comes up trumps

As Mrs Thatcher's new government gets down to the task of ramming through one of the most contentious programmes in parliamentary history, Whitehall's senior civil servants are sizing up their reshuffled political masters.

"We're not interested in what they think," one remarked this week. "That may come later, of course, but there are far more important questions to be asked when new people are appointed."

The questions — in roughly descending order of importance — are along the following lines. Does the new minister get through the paperwork, not least the boxes filled with civil service submissions and reports that he takes home at night? Does he take the advice that officials give him? Does he listen to their advice? How good is he at running meetings? What are his relations with the Prime Minister? Does he have influence in Cabinet? And, not least, is he a nice bloke?

It is at this point that the anecdotes start to flow. Ministers' private secretaries almost invariably know each other well and it is they who ensure that a minister's reputation precedes him to his new department.

On the whole Whitehall likes new blood. It gives fresh impetus to the daily round. Civil servants have now had time to meet and take stock of the men and women who were promoted, demoted or simply shifted sideways, and most of them like what they see. The Ministry of Agriculture, for example, is extending a warm welcome to its new boss, John MacGregor. He knows the ropes because he was once a junior minister there, is extremely able and is clearly a rising star. That means much to a department's civil servants; it adds to their prestige and helps them achieve departmental objectives. MacGregor, who comes straight from the Treasury, is also known to get on well with the Chancellor. A double-plus in Whitehall's internal politics.

Cecil Parkinson, back from the cold to the Department of Energy, is seen as something of a coup by his officials, chiefly because he is a clear favourite with everybody's ultimate boss, the Prime Minister. Ditto John Moore, promoter of Transport to Health and Social Security. Inquiries about Mr Moore establish that he has management ability — something that is felt to be badly needed at his new department.

There is general rejoicing at John Stanley's move from Defence to Northern Ireland — well, there is at the MoD, where he was not noted for graciousness to his



officials. However, he was respected as a man of principle and ability with a fierce capacity for hard work, and also, whatever his attitude to civil servants, for his concern for the welfare of the troops. Whether that will make him temperamentally suited to coping with the horrors of Northern Ireland remains to be seen.

Whitehall is also watching with interest to see what the Welsh will make of Peter Walker. He is a genial man and a brilliant politician, but has a profound mistrust of civil servants and an almost unrivalled capacity to ignore them — always with unimpaired courtesy. On occasion they have been reduced to scouring the public prints — Mr Walker has excellent relations with them — in the hope of reading their minister's mind.

In contrast, Transport officials are not at all displeased with Paul Channon, who has been demoted from Trade and Industry. For one thing they have decided that he is "quite bright". ("It's not as important in a minister as the ability to get things done, but it's always welcome," noted one senior official.) Just as much to the point, he is a "genuinely nice man" — and that is said with genuine warmth.

Civil servants say the same about Norman Fowler. But they are telling you something rather different. Whitehall does not like to speak slightly of its ministers, particularly when it hasn't quite made up its mind about them, as in Fowler's case. Much

safer when asked how good a man is to talk at length about his pleasing personality.

Fowler's political colleagues reckon that while at the DHSS he batted well on a very poor wicket. But Whitehall suspects that his grip was not as tight as it could have been, that work on major reforms in pensions and benefits was going too slowly, that there were too many last-minute changes of mind. Officials at the Department of Employment, his new home, will be watching closely for any sign of the indecisiveness that Whitehall regards as one of the gravest faults in any minister.

The key test for any new minister is his first major meeting with officials. Sometimes this can be a round-table affair, with all sectors of the department represented. Sometimes force of circumstance — such as the urgent need to consider the Queen's Speech and the implementation of manifesto promises — will dictate a more specific agenda. Either way, the permanent secretary and other senior figures in the department will take pains to ensure that only the best and brightest officials are on show. The trick, they say, is to create a good first impression.

And what of the lesser ministerial fry, those endless ranks of parliamentary under-secretaries known in the trade as Pussies? The Civil Service tends to regard them with a certain weary resignation — it has seen so many come and go. The power and influence of

new, very junior ministers is very much in the gift of his secretary of state. Some unfortunate junior ministers discover that although all papers on their subject areas duly come to them for a decision, copies somehow find their way first to the secretary of state, who then has the chance to pre-empt their judgement. Michael Heseltine advises junior ministers to take the biggest decision possible as soon as possible. Even if it turns out to be wrong, decisiveness can raise a man's stock within his new department.

Those in their very first ministerial post have sometimes been in departments before, as lowly special advisers or parliamentary private secretaries. Whitehall, therefore, will have marked their cards. Marion Roe was well regarded as a PPS at Transport. She had been in her new job as an environment minister scarcely 24 hours last week, before her new officials had affectionately dubbed her Marilyn Monroe — on the grounds that the two would look very much alike if the screen goddess were still alive.

New ministers who have never been near a great department of state before need more careful tutoring in the ways of Whitehall. But don't those who are truly wet behind the ears sometimes make serious mistakes early on?

"Mistakes?" said one senior official. "No, they don't make mistakes. They're not permitted to make mistakes."

At last a world drive against drugs

Vienna East and West, South and North, put aside their differences yesterday to hammer out what is, in essence, the first international charter to combat drug abuse.

When delegates from 120 nations gathered in Vienna for the first United Nations International Conference on Drug Abuse and Illicit Trafficking some thought that, like so many UN meetings, it would result in little more than a call for yet more talk and half a ton of wastepaper. Their fears proved unjustified.

Timothy Eggar, a British Foreign Office minister, said the conference had proved more successful than had been expected. Links with other countries had been undeniably strengthened. Western diplomats were also impressed by the co-operation of delegates from the Third World

and communist countries. The absence of any overt political factor contributed to the general good will.

The need for joint counter-offensives was reinforced by a call for a co-ordinating organization in every country. But most important was the production of the first international handbook and code of practice giving in detail the required action at every level. Thirty-five "targets" are listed. The book is based largely on British expertise, long envied by other countries, combined with advice and experience from Pakistan, South America and the Soviet Union.

The attitude of the Russians at the conference was a model of glasnost. Statistics were freely given and Soviet delegates gave the impression, borne out by some of their Western counterparts, that

drug abuse is not as great a problem in the Soviet Union as may have been thought.

Elsewhere, as delegates after delegates from South America emphasized, the problem affects national stability. Here, in the front line against drug growers, it is a question first of supplying police officers with such basic essentials as telephones, radios and vehicles; for them high-tech equipment must come later.

Paul Higdon, the head of Interpol's drug sub-division, made the point that the world forces against drug abuse are only as strong as their weakest link. Without effective enforcement nationally, positive results would be impossible internationally.

He was striking a note of realism, since many countries believe the solution to be simply pouring in more money. Italy, one

of the largest contributors to the UN drug fund, is a case in point. As one delegate acidly remarked, the money might be "better spent at home".

Drug trafficking, as many delegates observed, involves large amounts of money which are often laundered through surprisingly respectable bank accounts. Britain leads the world in its legislation which allows a convicted drug dealer's assets to be confiscated unless their owner can show they were accumulated legally.

Partly as a result of the conference, both Canada and Pakistan are thinking of adopting similar legislation. Though no one can be under any illusions as to the difficulties, this week in Vienna shows that a co-ordinated offensive against drugs is now more than just a theory.

Richard Bassett

Robert Kilroy-Silk

Incitement to terrorism

The Sri Lankan government now clearly sees the solution to Tamil demands for a separate state as a military one. That is not President Jayawardene's preferred solution, or at least not one he was prepared to acknowledge publicly when we spoke in Colombo some two years ago. Rather it was what he expected to be necessary. It was, however, the first choice of many of his ministers, and of large segments of his party and Sinhalese people.

Many Sinhalese have always been deeply resentful and envious of what they saw as the more successful and privileged Tamils. They can happily envisage a Sri Lanka purged of their presence — except perhaps for the more docile, poorer, and economically useful Indian Tamils working on the tea plantations. The Tamil minority has endured discrimination in education, employment and in the ownership of land. And while the refusal of the government to recognize their legitimate grievances, still less accommodate any of their demands for some form of devolved or federal government for the Northern and Eastern provinces, can in no way justify terrorism, it has given it a spurious legitimacy.

Negotiations to end the civil war are now made almost impossible by the entrenched positions and mutual loathing of the two sides that not even the good offices, nor even the bullying of India seems able to bridge. Too much innocent blood has been spilt. The government will not make concessions for fear of the censure of the bigoted but influential Buddhist monks and the political capital that would be made out of anything that could be construed as weakness by the opportunist opposition led by the less than statesmanlike Mrs Sirimavo Bandaranaike.

Equally not even powerful India seems able to exert sufficient influence on the Tamils to force a dilution of their more extreme demands. Yet the separatists' objective of a single Hindu state spanning the north and east is not only impracticable and unviable but would also undermine Sri Lanka's already fragile economy. Nor could any government in Colombo view with equanimity the prospect of the loss of its wonderful deepwater harbour at Trincomalee and its possible use by hostile powers.

That the Tamils have been subjected to repression and injustice cannot be denied. It is not just that they have been attacked and killed and their homes and businesses destroyed in the numerous incidents of communal violence. There have been terrible and

unforgivable atrocities on both sides. More important has been the deliberate attempt on the part of successive governments to isolate and alienate them; to the extent now that Tamil political moderates with rank, position and wealth, and therefore a vested interest in the status quo, and who had voted for and supported the present government, are not only fearful for their own safety but sympathize with — though not yet support — the terrorists.

This alienation of the Tamil community has been increased by the way the emergency and anti-terrorist powers have been indiscriminately and ruthlessly applied. It was never necessary, for example, to round up all the men aged between 16 and 35 every time a terrorist incident occurred in their locality. It was totally unjustifiable to carry them off to the army camp hundreds of miles south at Boosa. It was indefensible to beat and torture them. But it was done, and still is.

When I visited the camp the prisoners were cowering and afraid. Though the physical conditions of the camp were acceptable and all the prisoners spoke well of their military jailers, many could, nevertheless, point to the scars on their buttocks and backs where they had been beaten, could show off the places where cigarettes had been stubbed out on their bodies and could tell of being hung by the feet over chili fires and of having pins pushed down their fingernails.

What made it all so much more tragic was that so many of them were innocent of any terrorist intent, let alone action, as the government's own advisory board set up to review each case confessed. The round-ups, the beatings and the prolonged detentions probably acted as a greater and more efficient recruiting sergeant for the terrorists and their cause than all the ideological blandishments of the Tigers.

Many will be happy about that. The more terrorists there are, the more they confront the state, the more outrages they carry out, then the more likely it is that the government's reaction will be excessive enough to displace the Tamils from Sri Lanka altogether.

That, unfortunately, is what many Sinhalese want. It is what the thousands of Tamils who have already made the journey across the Palk Straits to India expect. It is probably what the government is about with its present military offensive in the north while the rest of us have our eyes and our consciences elsewhere.

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The author was a Labour MP, 1974-86.

Peter Brimelow

Thatcher omen for America

New York

There is a species of political statement best handled in the way 18th-century sailors dealt with navy-issue ships' biscuits: before swallowing, turn upside down and bang on the table. It makes the worms crawl out.

Some US media mutterings about Mrs Thatcher's election victory fall into this category. Take, for example, a column by Richard Melcher in *Business Week*. "The danger," he pronounced, "is that she may have misread her big margin of victory as a mandate to rip apart the broad social consensus favouring a big government that Britain has built up since World War II."

In order to expose the inherent absurdity of this argument, you have to invert it and ask: how could the electorate, supposing that it no longer favoured big government, have signalled such uncouth sentiments to Mr Melcher? Perhaps by writing "rip apart the broad social consensus" on every ballot? Obviously a mere electoral landslide is not enough; for Mr Melcher it is a matter of faith that the British electorate supports "big government".

This sort of fare was served up to Americans in surprising quantities after the British election. The *New York Times* concluded sourly that the Conservative party won because it united the "middle class", which responded to "Mrs Thatcher's very un-British appeal to the voters' selfish interests". As opposed to Mr Kinnock's appeal to actual and potential recipients of government largesse, which was purely idealistic.

During the campaign, David Steel complained that Thatcherism meant "the Americanization of Britain". But the unspoken concern of many commentators here is the Britification of America. Indeed, to a large extent it has already happened. The coalition of social groups put together by Mrs Thatcher is remarkably similar to that assembled by President Reagan in 1980 and 1984 — and a powerful testimony to the existence of a common Anglo-American political culture.

The central feature of this phenomenon is what has been described as "the revolt of the ordinary". In both America and in Britain, the taxpaying middle of the social spectrum has united against the tax-consuming, and tax-distributing, ends. In both countries, moreover, powerful elements in the educated elite view the spectacle with distaste — whether America's "lousiness

liberals" or Britain's patrician Conservative "wets".

In America, as in Britain, ordinariness is no mere figure of speech. Both the Democratic and Labour parties have allowed themselves to be captivated by the claims of organized special interests and minority groups, alien and even antagonistic to their ordinary supporters. What the British call the "loony left" is exactly the group described by Jean Kirkpatrick, former ambassador to the UN, as the "San Francisco Democrats".

As always in America, this political reality has an ethnic dimension. The famous "Roosevelt coalition", which enabled the Democrats to dominate American politics from the depression on, required them to unite the coloured minorities and divide the white majority, basically by emphasizing class conflict. But the "Reagan coalition" has united the whites of all classes, including even formerly Democratic groups like the Irish and Italians; excepting, and only partially, the Jews. (Studying the results from Greater London, in particular, my guess is that this process is under way in Britain too.)

One curious consequence is that gatherings of the two major parties in America actually look quite different. Blondism is common among Republicans, reflecting the party's support from the two largest American ethnic groups, British and German. The Democrats are distinctly darker — apart from anything else, black voters now constitute fully 20 per cent of their support. The parties look like separate nations. And in many respects they are.

This explains the squirming detectable in much American commentary on Mrs Thatcher's triumph. Liberal Democrats here feel uneasy that Mrs Thatcher is not quite what they had in mind when they urged women's participation in politics. But worse, her recovery after the lows of 1986 is a bad omen for their own chances in the presidential election next year. Although the Democrats currently have the tactical initiative, the Republicans' strategic position is enormously strong. It will be hard for any Democratic nominee to meet the clamorous demands of his peculiar constituency and still mount an effective challenge in the very different territory that the Republicans under Reagan have made their own.

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RADICALISM IN THE KREMLIN

The full meeting of the Soviet Communist Party's Central Committee which ended yesterday in Moscow heard Mikhail Gorbachev introduce a programme for economic and social reform that was no less radical in outlook than the one introduced to the British Parliament in the Queen's speech this week. There were also, on basic economic concepts, many similarities of detail.

Eschewing what he called the "simplified concept of equality" that had led to social "levelling", Mr Gorbachev spoke of the need for greater pay differentials to encourage enterprise. He reprimanded local councils for holding back would-be entrepreneurs by stalling on new legislation and spoke in outright monetarist terms of the fall in the value of the rouble ("it does not fulfil its role as an active means of financial control over the economy"). He told his audience of the rampant (though concealed) inflation in the Soviet economy, and revealed the extent to which the budget had been shored up by a tripling in alcohol revenues over the past decade.

The pivots of the programme that the Soviet leader presented to rectify this were, first, a streamlining of economic management to encourage profit-making and place the administrative responsibility firmly on the farm or factory; and, second, a thorough overhaul of the pricing mechanism. In discussing prices, he was careful to hold out the enticing prospects for skilled workers in responsible positions who would be able to earn far more than at present. What he failed even to mention, however, was that any change in the pricing system would leave most people considerably worse off.

At present, the cost of housing, food, fuel and transport is extremely low. Most people spend the money that remains on luxuries, many of them bought for fabulous sums on the black market. Any change in pricing which forces ordinary people to spend more on the basics (thus depriving them of the luxuries they have come to look forward to) will be extremely unpopular. No matter that it straightens out the economy and establishes realistic expectations. Experience in other nominally socialist countries — Poland and Romania — suggests that price rises are the one thing that brings otherwise fearful people onto the streets.

One way of minimizing — though by no means eliminating — the risk of disorder would be to enact a currency reform at the same time. The rouble could be devalued overnight to something more akin to its real value, or it

could even be replaced. Under such reforms, black-market dealers and others with ill-gotten gains would be penalized. Unless the legal market in luxury goods were able to fill the temporary vacuum, however, the black market would quickly revive. Understandably, therefore, there was no mention of currency reform in Mr Gorbachev's speech. Such changes depend on surprise for their effect.

The far-reaching implications of what Mr Gorbachev told the Central Committee are undoubted. The question is, as always in the Soviet Union, how far the changes — any changes — can be implemented. Much of his keynote address was taken up with castigating central officials and ministers (most of them appointed since he became Party leader) for their inactivity over the past two years. He used some extremely well-worn terms, like the "new economic mechanism", the "new centralism", to describe his plans. Moreover, his insistence that there was no departure from socialism, just a better application of socialist principles, may have been ideologically essential, but it hardly inspired creative thinking.

The one factor that could spell change, is the composition of the new Politburo. By promoting three people closely associated with the programme of "restructuring" and the policy of "glasnost", Mr Gorbachev has for the first time since he came to power managed to tilt the Politburo decisively in his direction. Until now, his centre of power had appeared to rest mainly in the policy-directing Central Committee Secretariat, rather than in the policy-making Politburo.

Even though the age and infirmity of the Politburo he inherited gave him the apparent opportunity to replenish its ranks more rapidly than any of his predecessors had been able to do, most of the new appointees until now appeared to be compromise candidates. Speculation about who would vote for change on any single issue often gave Mr Gorbachev only the slimmest of majorities; if that.

The new appointments suggest that the Soviet leader has considerably strengthened his political position. They also mean that most members of the Secretariat are now also voting members of the Politburo, so that the policy-making and executive bodies of the Communist Party have been brought more closely together. If, under these more auspicious political circumstances, Mr Gorbachev's reform programme does not now make progress, it is his own political will and the essentials of Soviet-style socialism that will have to take the blame.

MR BAKER'S BATTLES AHEAD

The schools proposals in the Queen's Speech are a beguiling mixture of reform and radicalism. How quickly they lead to more children being better educated will depend on how resolutely Mr Baker resists the united opposition of the professional establishment.

One target already in the professionals' sights is the plan to test children at seven, 11 and 14: a return, they claim, to the educational dark ages. But laying down a national curriculum will achieve almost nothing unless pupils are tested regularly. As Mr Baker himself has put it: "Parents are entitled to know what the schools seek to teach and how well they succeed in teaching it. Once they have that evidence, schools can be judged fairly."

Precisely. That was why it was so worrying to see the commitment apparently watered down in the Conservative manifesto. This spoke in muffled tones of setting "attainment levels" so that "the progress of pupils can be assessed". That is the dull jargon of an establishment which is wholly opposed to judging schools, pupils or (least of all) teachers. Mr Baker should have no truck with it.

Another measure in the reformist category is the proposal to give schools control of their own budgets. It is sensible and largely uncontroversial. On its own, however, it will contribute little to the raising of standards.

Potentially far more significant is the plan to allow schools to opt out of local authority control, referred to only glancingly in the Queen's Speech under the guise of giving schools "greater autonomy". This is the plan that caused the Tories so much trouble during the election. The confusion created then has not yet been dispelled.

The problem was that Mrs Thatcher clearly saw it as a way of bringing back grammar

schools whereas Mr Baker insisted that comprehensives would have to remain comprehensive. They eventually compromised by agreeing that schools that opted out would have to retain their character for "three or four years".

So how significant and radical the plan really is will depend entirely on how many schools vote to take up the offer, how many bids for freedom are approved and under what conditions. As things stand, the number could very well be confined to those that are under pressure: grammar schools threatened with reorganization and comprehensives irredeemably at odds with their local authorities. There is nothing wrong with that but, once again, standards will not rise dramatically as a result.

What could make all the difference, particularly in the inner cities, is the renewed promise to support the establishment of city technology colleges. Four have already been announced, another five are on the stocks and plans for 11 more, making up the 20 originally proposed, are well advanced.

Twenty secondary schools out of 4,000 make a small base from which to launch a revolution. It makes it all the more important that Mr Baker should not be deflected from his purpose: "to provide a broadly-based secondary education with a strong technological element thereby offering a wider choice to parents and a surer preparation for adult and working life to their children".

As refined by the City Technology Colleges Trust, that proposal is beginning to emerge as the prototype of a high-quality technical and vocational alternative to the academic bias of the grammar schools. It cannot come too soon. Nothing else could contribute so profoundly to the raising of standards.

FOURTH LEADER

It is perhaps too early to comment upon the unidentified object in the Russian skies seen by the brave crew of a British Airways jumbo and reported on our front page today. We have, however, been studying a case which may be similar.

An airline pilot, recently flying from Stansted to Paris, was obliged to alter course abruptly when he saw an enormous kangaroo in his flight-path. Before everybody concludes that the incident marks the first occasion in aviation history on which the captain of an aircraft has taken his passengers to 10,000 ft while in the grip of a massive attack of the DTs, it must be said that he was perfectly sober and in his right mind; there was an enormous kangaroo in his flight-path. What is more, there was a man in its pouch.

Omne ignotum pro magnifico, which may be very roughly translated as: when you have heard the explanation, you will know less than you do now. Here goes, anyway.

First, the kangaroo was an inflatable rubber one rather than a Martian mutant. Second, it was not proceeding to France under its own motive power, but was hanging from five helium-filled "blimps". Third, the whole thing had been sponsored by Foster's Lager, which suggests that if anyone in this story was what Bertie Wooster called "fried to the tonsils", it was the kangaroo.

The man cadding a lift from the passing beast was a Mr David Kirke, who is Chairman of the Dangerous Sports Club, and could certainly

not be accused of failing to set his members an example. (He had previously jumped off the Golden Gate Bridge in San Francisco, attached to a length of elasticated rope.) Mr Kirke was fined £100 for flying without a pilot's licence. He expressed a due contrition.

There can be few people who already knew, before this business, that it is an offence in this country to fly a kangaroo without first having been licensed to do so; well, they know better now. But the prosecution and conviction of the marsupial Lindbergh, though it disposes of the main mystery, leaves another untouched. What happened to the pilot of the aircraft who had to take prompt evasive action because he had seen a kangaroo bowling merrily through the sky at 10,000 ft?

For not only was he sober; he knew he was sober. Yet if he hasn't acquired a permanent cardiac murmur, a facial tic and a tendency to wake screaming from his sleep, airborne kangaroos must be much more common over the Channel than most of us had hitherto supposed.

If he has to take legal action, all those involved in the proceedings should start by blushing at the derisory fine imposed on the man who started the trouble. The law may be an ass, and has frequently made a dog's breakfast; moreover, some judges want to bring back the cat, and others have frequently put the cart before the horse. But it would be a very grave matter indeed if British justice were now to be dispensed in a kangaroo court.

Need to update Bretton Woods?

From Mr W. Grey

Sir, News from the International Monetary Conference in Hamburg (report, June 23) of bankers' disenchantment with floating, or rather wildly fluctuating exchange rates is unremarkable, not to say predictable. For some, a system which spawned, among other things, two oil price explosions (followed by a collapse) and the worst depression since the great depression had long ceased, if it ever promised, to fill the bill.

But what to put in its place? On the one hand, as an economic indicator of a country's internal as well as external balance, and above all as an early warning system, exchange rates are too important to be ignored, let alone discarded. On the other, to stabilise them — as is manifestly everybody's (save perhaps a few foreign exchange dealers') interest — requires eternal vigilance and deliberate effort on the part of economic policymakers, not just (except on the rarest occasions) central bank intervention.

The answer is therefore that governments must not just pay lip service to exchange-rate stability

as a desirable end; they must also, at all times, be prepared to will the means, taking whatever measures are required on their own, without continually looking to their trading partners, to keep their exchange rate (on a trade-weighted basis) and hence their economy on a stable course.

Good will, and even the discipline exerted by active commitment to a common cause, however, is not always enough. There needs to be a firm hand at the centre to enforce the agreed rules. And since the International Monetary Fund is still the best world central bank we have, more power needs to be given to its elbow.

This, finally, calls for something like another Bretton Woods conference. And who better to convene (and perhaps host) it than Britain, which played such a fruitful role at the first, under a prime minister with an international prestige now second to none?

Yours faithfully,
W. GREY,
12 Arden Road, N3,
June 23.

A sporting chance

From Mr David Mallen

Sir, Your editorial (June 20), dealing with the closure of Priest Hill sports centre, touches on some very important issues. It also manages to give a misleading picture of where responsibility lies.

The editorial and previous coverage of the issue fail to point out the underlying facts behind closure, namely, that school rolls have fallen dramatically as a consequence of a lower birthrate and migration from London. This authority has had to reduce the number of schools, both for educational and financial reasons, as a result.

Naturally, with the decline in the number of schools there has been a corresponding decline in the demand and the use made of sports facilities. Priest Hill is a good example: in 1973-74 nearly 7,000 children per week used the centre, but by 1981-82, on the eve of closure, only 1,665 were using it.

We were able to reallocate all those pupils to similar facilities much nearer to their schools. I hope that Mr Moylan's one-off decision on Priest Hill can be developed into a policy which will enable these facilities in all parts of the country to revert to community use when no longer needed by schools. It is a problem that cannot be resolved by local education authorities at a time when government is requiring them to reduce expenditure.

Finally, may I make another attempt to kill off the canard about ILEA being against competition in sport. It is not. A sports policy which is truly "for all" must embrace everything from the highly competitive to the non-competitive desire to be fit and enjoy sport. It does not follow that, because the authority is keen to develop the latter, it is against the former.

Yours sincerely,
DAVID MALLÉN,
Director of Education (Schools),
Inner London Education Authority,
The County Hall, SE1,
June 23.

which they bear on behalf of the nation? At present BAA's profit is struck without such provision being made.

The same principle applies to nuclear dumping sites. Until a local community can be tempted by the provision of generous compensation the problem cannot be satisfactorily resolved. Only when a number of communities are competing to attract nuclear dumping in response to offers of compensation can the Government be sure that the compensation is at the right level. If a minister has to resort to designating a site, he is acting like a dictator and invites local communities to retaliate in the most obstructive and undemocratic manner.

It is primarily a question of the majority compensating a small minority for the burden which they bear on its behalf and the money is only the manifestation of a democratic spirit, which protects minorities.

Yours faithfully,
MALCOLM HILL,
2a Pembroke Road, W8,
June 19.

Honour where due
From Mrs Trudy J. Sundberg
Sir, In Mr Ivor Davis's article about Fred Astaire (June 23) he said Americans were "often uncomfortable with sophistication and elegance".

That is not quite true. It would be more accurate to say that Americans are indifferent to sophistication and elegance. Instead, we appreciate talent and quality in many forms, ranging from Fred Astaire to Martha Graham, Herman Melville to Emily Dickinson, Lena Horne to Beverly Sills, and Thomas Jefferson to Harry Truman.

Yours faithfully,
TRUDY J. SUNDBERG,
1436 N Bonnie View,
Oak Harbor,
Washington, USA,
June 24.

Controlling mink

From Sir Christopher Lever

Sir, Your report (early editions, June 12) about the River Wye Preservation Trust's "Mink-watch" campaign to destroy mink in mid-Wales draws attention once again to the depredation of this North American predator.

In several parts of the country mink have caused a serious decline in the local status of such waterside birds as moorhens and little grebes. Since this regional fall is not discernible in the national index of the British Trust for Ornithology's waterways birds survey, it has been suggested that mink are not greatly affecting such species' populations.

A place for music

From Mr Nicholas Sherwood

Sir, Dr Rae (feature, June 19) is clearly concerned over the future of independent schools in the face of competition from city technical colleges whose exam results may be equitable.

Perhaps non-Philistine parents, however, will continue to make sacrifices to pay for an education where, curricular and extra-curricular music, art and drama have flourished for many years alongside academic studies which

have embraced the good things in computer technology and CDT (craft design technology).

Music at a city tech will occur only at the whim of the financially autonomous head, there being no place for "namby-pamby" subjects in Mrs Thatcher's — sorry, Mr Baker's — national curriculum.

Yours faithfully,
NICHOLAS SHERWOOD,
Director of Music,
Chigwell School,
Chigwell, Essex,
June 20.

LETTERS TO THE EDITOR

Free speech issue in academe

From Mr Clive Davies

Sir, Like Mr John Smith, at South Thames College (reports June 22, 23) I tell my students here at Liverpool University that although black people don't commit all muggings they do seem, from statistics, to commit more than their fair share. Probably, unlike Mr Smith, I say it rather often, for, as a lecturer and tutor in criminology and penology, I am licensed and indeed under a duty to do so.

Being, like Mr Smith, "highly qualified and widely experienced" in my own field, I can then go on to discuss such matters as the differences between people of Afro-Caribbean and Asian descent in this and other respects and draw what I hope are illuminating comparisons with people of Irish, Welsh (my own lot), Jewish, Chinese and other non-Anglo-Saxon stock; concluding that mugging and other crimes are almost certainly better explained in terms of factors like poverty, poor education, unemployment, family structure, area of residence, age composition and public and police prejudice than by reference to skin colour, immigrant status or ethnic origin as such; adding, by way of a footnote, that "race" is a word not used by educated people today except in connexion with the contests of horses, athletes, pigons and the like.

It is all good solid sociological stuff, of the sort that makes our graduates civilized and well-informed people.

Like Mr Smith, too, I am a "free and easy" lecturer, often wandering to areas not strictly within my professional competence: such as his field, engineering. I should take a very poor view of any student who reported me and of any university authority who reprimanded me for remarks in the latter category. If they did, I should expect to be vigorously defended by my colleagues and union.

So I may trespass freely and with impunity on Mr Smith's field, it seems, but not on mine. Is that defensible? It is idle to argue that Mr Smith's *obiter dicta* were on sensitive "social" matters, mine in the unemotional "technical" sphere.

Votes and seats

From Mr Robert Kee

Sir, No British Government for more than 50 years has been based on a majority of the popular vote, although the Conservative Government which led us into the Suez operation came close to it. Healthy democratic elections are as much about who you are against as who you are for.

On this basis it can be argued that there is no democratic distortion in the popular vote figures for June 11 of which Mr Jeremy Thorpe (June 24) reminds us. More people voted against the Labour Party (21,015,577) and even more voted against the Alliance (23,786,469) than voted against the Conservatives (17,367,096).

Whether a lead of some 6 per cent in lack of unpopularity over Labour and some 10 per cent over the Alliance should entitle the Conservatives to nearly 60 per cent of the seats in the House of Commons remains a question. Yours faithfully,
ROBERT KEE,
82 Camberwell Grove, SE5.

Doctor in the book

From Dr G. F. Wood

Sir, With the large increase in the number of PhDs awarded over the last two or three decades, I would have thought that non-physicians entitled to call themselves doctor would outnumber physicians. At least it seems reasonable to suppose that most people of ordinary education would know that a lot of doctors are not physicians, even if they do not realise that not many physicians have doctorates.

Not so British Telecom, at least in the Severnside area. When I received my new-style directories I was surprised to find myself in the business section. A phone call elicited the information that anyone using the title doctor was assumed to be a practising physician and was assigned to the business pages.

If followed rigidly, this extraordinarily insensitive (or ignorant) decision must have been embarrassing not only to non-physicians with doctorates (most of whom do not carry on business at their home addresses) but also to retired physicians and those who, in the past, took some pains to separate their business and private entries in the directory.

Yours faithfully,
G. F. WOOD,
Sunnyside Cottage,
Newmarket,
Suffolk, Gloucestershire,
June 21.

Position of pride

From the Clerk of the Worshipful Company of Distillers

Sir, ... and what about clerk, which is widely thought to be inferior to secretary (Mr Mellor's letter in your edition of June 22). I — and I'm confident all my colleagues in other livery companies — take pride in being called clerk or, even better and traditionally, learned clerk.

Yours faithfully,
BRUCE DEHN, Clerk,
The Worshipful Company of Distillers,
60 Montford Place,
Kennington Lane, SE11,
June 22.

My sometimes abusive and occasionally doubtless libellous observations about the weapons, shipping, distilling, brewing, tobacco and drug industries are intentional, if off-the-cuff, attacks on the lifestyle, security and incomes of millions of users, workers and shareholders. And I have to confess that I never pause to inquire whether any of my audience has been, or intends to be involved as employee, shareholder or consumer in the industries concerned.

Adult academe, I think, is likely to be happier, healthier and more educational when everyone, teachers and taught, feels free to say anything, to discuss any matter or idea whatsoever, in the pursuit of knowledge and truth. Mr Smith should have the same liberty at his lecture as I enjoy at mine. Yours &c,
CLIVE DAVIES,
The University of Liverpool,
Department of Sociology,
Eleanor Rathbone Building,
Myrtle Street,
PO Box 147, Liverpool,
June 23.

ON THIS DAY

JUNE 27 1898

The Spanish-American war was sparked by the destruction of the US battleship *Maine* in Havana harbour. War was declared in April, 1898, when America demanded the end of Spain's authority in Cuba. The campaign was short. Spanish rule ended in January, 1899, and the Republic of Cuba proclaimed in May, 1902.

THE WAR.

FIGHTING NEAR SANTIAGO
(Through Reuters's Agency.)
NEW YORK, June 25.

A severe engagement was fought yesterday morning five miles out of Santiago between a force of American regular and irregular cavalry, some 1,000 strong, and about 2,000 Spaniards. The Americans had to dismount, the guns being covered with sandbags.

(Reuters's Special Service.)
American camp, near Jurguen,
June 24.

The victory gained to-day by the American troops was not a bloodless one. An officer and 11 troopers who fell in the engagement have been buried on the field of battle, while about 50 wounded, including six officers, are lying in the field hospital. Of these, eight or ten are so seriously wounded that little hope is entertained of their recovery. The enemy, it is believed, lost at least 50 killed and many wounded.

Practically two engagements were being fought at the same time — one by the rough-riders under the immediate command of Colonel Wood, on the top of the plateau, and the other by a force of regulars, with whom was General Young.

The first part of the journey for the rough-riders was over a series of steep hills several hundred feet high. The men carried 200 rounds of ammunition and their heavy camping equipment. Although the march was accomplished easily enough in the early morning, the weather became intensely hot. Frequent rests were necessary, and the trail was so narrow for the greater part of the way that the men had to proceed in single file. Prickly cactus lined both sides of the path, and the underbrush was so thick that it was impossible to see ten feet on either side. The weather grew hotter and hotter. One by one the men threw away their blankets and towels and their emptied canteens. The first intimation they received of the presence of the enemy was when they were three or four miles back from the coast. Then the low cuckoo-like calls used by the Spaniards began to be heard in the bush. It was difficult to make out the exact points from which these sounds proceeded. The men were ordered to speak in whispers, and frequent halts were made.

About 8 o'clock a place was reached where the trail opened out into a space covered with high grass. On the right side of the trail the ground was thick with brambles underbrush. On the other side a barbed wire fence also ran along the path. The dead body of a Cuban was found lying on the roadside. A few seconds later the heads of several Spaniards were seen among the bushes, but only for a moment. Not till then were the men permitted to load their carbines.

Just as they did so, the sound of firing was heard a mile or two to the right, apparently from the hills beyond the thickets. This was understood to be the Regulars replying to the Spaniards, who had opened on them from the thicket. In addition to a rapid rifle fire, the Hotchkiss guns were also heard.

Hardly two minutes later the Mausers commenced to crack in the thicket, and bullets whistled over the heads of the roughriders, cutting the leaves of the trees and sending chips flying from the fence posts by the side of the track. The Spaniards poured in a heavy fire, which soon began to tell with disastrous effects.

This is a real letter from a real bank. Unreal isn't it?

One of the leading banks used to have a slogan which ran "Money is our business."

Perhaps they could explain the business logic behind the remarkable document reproduced here.

The sheer scale of manpower and resources in relation to the problem makes cracking peanuts with sledgehammers look quite efficient.

If you allow half an hour of managerial, clerical and secretarial time at an average £5 an hour, it cost £2.50 to prepare the letter.

Add 18p for postage, and you get a grand total of £2.68.

In other words, sending this letter cost the bank over ten times as much as the overdraft that led to it!

Even more bizarre than the arithmetic is the tone of voice.

Wouldn't an offer of advice be more appropriate than a threat?

It's common sense, isn't it?

At Nationwide we've applied a good deal of common sense to financial problems like these, and come up with the first real alternative to a bank account.

It's called the Nationwide FlexAccount.

At first glance it looks much like a bank account, with all the usual facilities like a cheque book, cheque card, cashcard, salary credits, standing orders and direct debits.

But there are more differences than similarities.

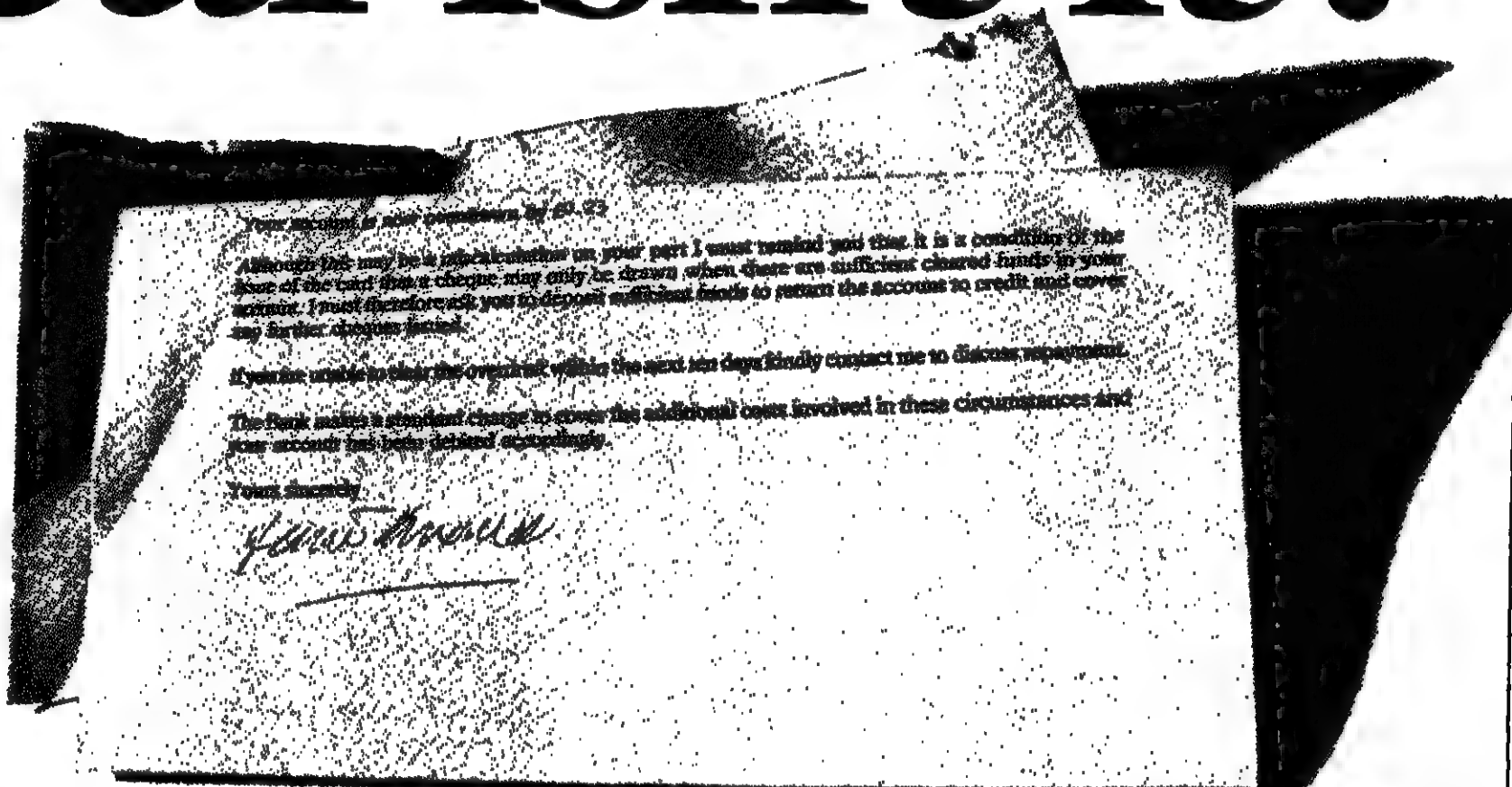
Interest for example, the last thing you'd expect on a current account.

With up to £99 in your account, you get 2% interest net per annum. On sums between £100 and £499, 3.5%. And when you're £500 or more in credit, 5%.

(Both the higher interest rates are paid on the whole balance, not just the amount over £100 or £500.)

All this is calculated daily, and paid out annually.

And on the subject of paying out, you can withdraw (or deposit) cash, get a mini-



statement and even pay your bills 24 hours a day from our cash machines. You can withdraw cash anytime of the day or night from over 800 other places, wherever you see LINK, the sign of the national cash network.

More convenient still, a FlexAccount gives you the option of Home Banking. This amazing new development actually enables you to check your balance or request statements over your own telephone. Soon you'll be able to pay bills too.

Another area in which FlexAccount differs radically from bank accounts is the vexed subject of charges. Quite simply, on a FlexAccount there aren't any.

Even if you write a cheque, use your cashcard or request a statement while you're overdrawn, we still won't charge you a penny.

Naturally we don't encourage our customers to go into the red.

But if you do need an overdraft we'll begin not by sending the standard threatening letter, but by discussing with you what your needs are, how much you want to borrow and for how long.

Then, all you owe us is interest on the amount outstanding. No "arrangement fee," no extras.

When there are no charges there's nothing to hide. So we go out of our way to be open about money and make it the approachable subject it should be.

This is simply a reflection of the biggest difference between us and the banks.

Our philosophy.

In place of the 'take it or leave it' approach, a FlexAccount allows you to choose from a large selection of different services to suit your precise needs.

If you need advice we're always ready to talk about your financial needs and problems, face to face.

Of course, we can't guarantee that you will never receive a letter from us.

But if you do, it will be rooted in something which others have apparently lost sight of. Reality.

For further information, call into your local Nationwide branch. Or write to Claire Adams, Nationwide Building Society, New Oxford House, High Holborn, London WC1V 6PW.

**Nationwide
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We always remember whose money it is.

June 27-July 3, 1987

SATURDAY

A WEEKLY GUIDE TO LEISURE
ENTERTAINMENT AND THE ARTS

In search of two characters

Two men who
live by the
word talk to
Danny Danziger
about their
lives, their
problems and
their art

ALAN
AYCKBOURN

The theatre is such an anti-social profession that you tend to work while other people are playing, and at the very time people are getting ready to go to dinner, you're getting ready to go to work. And because you can start work a little later in the morning, it makes for a peculiar closed circuit of friends, either other people in the theatre or insomniacs.

I suppose work is 90 per cent of my life, and particularly when one is a director or a writer, where your hours are not so defined. I think you tend to carry it away with you into the night.

There's a certain puritanical streak in me which tells me: "You've been very lucky to be a successful playwright, people do come and see your plays, and you really ought to keep working at it." The fact that the play is successful and one can afford a holiday, or one can afford to have some very good dinners, is great, but the main thing is to keep working. It's a nasty little habit, the work ethic.

Writing is lonely, that's why I do it so fast. I tend to take at the maximum a month off my directing work, and for three weeks of that I wander around just sifting ideas that have been fermenting. Then in the last week I actually throw myself into the business of writing and that is usually a very quick process, anything up to three or four days. Then that will immediately follow into the directing and the first day of rehearsal.

The slowest link in the whole chain is the publicity. You need to have the poster printed weeks and weeks before I have even thought of the next play or started writing. So because I have to give at least an indication of what the play is about, sometimes titles become desperately vague: *Time and Tide* again is safe... you could write anything about that.

Because I put so much into that short period, one is being generated by a fair degree of panic. There is a sort of increasing

Extracted from *It's a Day's Work*, published by Fontana, £3.50.



Ayckbourn: "I can't communicate with anyone. You split yourself into a series of multiple characters... seven or eight personalities can be walking round the house."



McEwan: "Writing is a form of investigation of understanding, plus the simple pleasure of giving feelings and thoughts a shape. You like to think you are getting better."

exhilaration as it gets near finishing, followed by the deflating moment soon after it's finished. And between the two there is a fair tension. And a fair anti-socialness creeps over me. I can't communicate with anyone and I nibble all the time on biscuits and sandwiches. I live with the characters in the play, which can mean one has a sense of splitting oneself into seven or eight characters - so you have a series of multiple personalities wandering around the house.

The thing I have to keep remembering, which is very difficult for people who do make a success out of originating things, is not to become totally involved in promoting the thing and appearing in Pro-Am golf tournaments or popping up on *What's My Line?* or something. My job is writing plays, and I always think people should ask themselves, "What's the one thing that nobody else can do that I can do?"

There is always the possibility of the muse drying up, and the problem that the more you write, the less there is in your own scope to explore. I suppose one is aware of repetition of theme, although I think every artist, whether they be musical, painter or playwright, tends to have a particular theme they come back to. I think that is perfectly fair, after all most of us are finite. But there is always a worry that you're not doing anything better in what you're saying, just repeating a theme for the sake of repeating it... doing another play.

At the moment, touch wood, ideas just pop out; as soon as I get one out, another one arrives, so that is always the fear that it won't happen, that there will be *The Blank Sheet of Paper*.

I don't go to road accidents and stuff for material, things just sort of happen around me. I'm very much a lover of being on the fringes of things. I do wander around a lot on my own. I pick things up second-hand, from people sitting in the row behind me, at the table beside me. I tend not to tell people I'm a writer, very much because they either become madly self-conscious and attempt to get themselves into your play by some devious trick of personality, or else they claim up completely and look extremely sheepish. When something doesn't work, when your play is not firing on all cylinders, it's like when everybody leaves your party - or doesn't come. But the best part of my work is not the clapping, it's the feeling at the end of the evening, that you have given the most wonderful party and those five hundred strangers who came in are feeling better... I don't know, but they are sort of unified into a whole and that is marvelous. That's really like shutting the door on a good party and thinking - that went well!

Alan Ayckbourn has two plays running in the West End, *A Small Family Business*, at the National Theatre, and *Woman in Mind*, at the Vaudeville.

IAN
MCEWAN

Is it really work? It certainly makes you hungry, it does many of the things that I think work does, it makes you tired and you know when you've had enough. It's work, and it's great satisfaction. Although I know there's no relationship between doing two thousand words in a day and the quality of the work, I still feel the very crude pleasure of actually getting words down on page, even though the next day they're junked.

There are times when I belong with that camp of writers who would rather wash the dishes than go absolutely crazy in front of a blank sheet of paper. But I know that that's what has to happen. I am someone who has to sit around for a long, long time writing messages to myself before I get something going. I rather envy those writers who, just as they're finishing one novel, are already shaping the next one. Even though I don't regard myself as a particularly autobiographical writer, I have to live through some more life before something else can begin.

I try to make sure that I'm sitting at my desk by nine or nine-thirty in the morning. I keep a very occasional notebook/diary and I find that's useful to sustain the illusion of writing when I'm not really doing it. I would say if nothing has happened satisfactorily after three or four hours then it's really time to do other things. You think you've stopped thinking about it, but in fact when you come back to it you find the solution is offering itself. My ideal rate of work is around 500 words a day.

I am very superstitious. Black ink always. Notebooks have to be from some obscure firm in Edinburgh, just simply because the first one was from there, and I want them all to look like that. I have to continue with the kind of paper I

started on: if it starts on blank A4 then it must continue, and if it was lined A4 it must continue on lined A4. I never write the year on the notebook until that year is up, somehow I feel it's asking for trouble. Another emergent superstition is not giving anything a title until it's finished.

I suppose when I'm not writing I'm sort of on the lookout for things without even really knowing it. The one thing I have learnt is that however obvious an idea is, unless you write it down, you've had it, it's gone, so I carry round a pen and an envelope.

I just have a habit of watchfulness. There are two areas where I look. One is how people are with their children, because that fascinates me a great deal. And the other thing is couples, married or otherwise. I saw on the station a man who had come to meet his wife or girlfriend. She had a case, and he must have come on another train because he had a case, and he had a bike. And he really wanted to carry his suitcase, but he also wanted to push his bike and he also had to carry his suitcase, and he got into such a tangle.

He finally settled it by putting both suitcases down, and I was intrigued by this chivalry because he was actually rather angry at the same time and it wasn't that he was doing this with some great display of extravagant behaviour, but he was in the grip of this behaviour, and the fact that she was offering either to push the bike or carry one of the suitcases made him immensely irritable.

And then they set off and she was walking beside him looking rather meek and put-down and he was looking, well, put-upon. Those kind of things I like, people gripped by their behaviour rather than on top of it, but they are distressing at the same time.

I think when you're writing, especially when you're writing prose fiction, you get terribly interested in gesture and the surface of things, and writing about it just feeds back into watching it and watching people.

I suppose in some way I'm writing out sort of maps for myself, but I do need these little touches to make them work, and the maps are really routes to material in my own head, conflicts, wish-fulfillments, dreams, my own past.

I suppose I agree with the Czech writer Kundera, in that fiction writing is an incredible form of investigation, either of yourself or

the outer world, which cannot really be rivalled by any other art form. I think it's one of the central forms of artistic expression. So if you asked me what it's for, then I would say it's a kind of investigation of understanding. There's also simply the pleasure of setting out to give unarticulated feelings and thoughts a shape which can then live and exist independently of yourself.

The real pleasure I get from my

work is the work that I've just done. The work I've completed that morning will give me pleasure although I tend to lose interest once it's over and it has left me. Putting the last dot on the last page is a pleasure which I constantly want to relive, even though it's fantastically brief, and it's two or three years apart. Writers divide between those who simply write to find out exactly what it is that they think, and those who have to think of the sentence first, then put it down, and constantly agonize about the gap between the thought and the language that's going to embody the thought. I am in the second camp. You like to feel you're getting better but this is not the case, and you only have to look at other writers' work to know that this isn't so. But I need this myth, otherwise it would be very hard to go on if you felt that your best work was behind you.

But there are things you can do when you are young which you can't do later on. I once wrote a story which I would find impossible to write now. It was called "Butterfly", and it was narrated by a man who sexually assaulted a girl and pushed her into a canal. As a parent now, I find that my responses are so much more complex than that it would take a lot more to take me into that situation.

Maybe you don't have quite the same freedoms that you have at the age of 22.

You discover that there is only a minority, a small chunk of people who have even heard of you. A few years ago I was staying in a hotel chalet, on a skiing holiday, and each night we sat on different tables, and I was asked what I did. People were announcing themselves as dentists and accountants and plastic surgeons, and I said I was a writer. And everybody said, "Well, that's incredibly interesting, what's your name?" And there's nothing quite so awful as announcing your name to people whose eyes don't register anything at all, and this is the next question, although it's totally futile because if they haven't heard of you at this point... "Give me the name of some of your books," they say, and you go through the most humiliating process of naming your books, and even as you do so the very titles sound absurd and you wish you hadn't written the titles.

And each night I went through this, and after a few days, people would say, "Oh, you're the writer chappie, aren't you, what was your name again?" And then I'd go through this sad litany of my work. And then on my last evening, this chap said, "Desmond Bagley, now there's a writer," and it was that emphasis, "now there's a writer", as if to say, "Where were you?" And those are chastening moments.

Ian McEwan's third novel, *The Child in Time*, a political tale in which parents are instructed that childhood is a disease, will be published this autumn.

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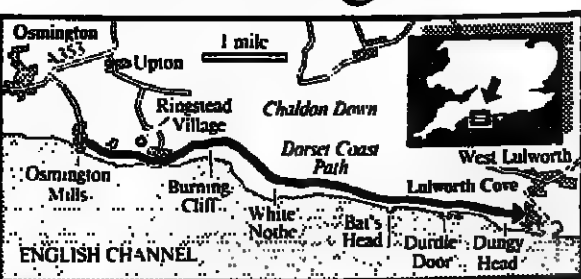
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OUT AND ABOUT

Take the high road



DORSET
Osmington Mills to Lulworth Cove. Distance: 6 miles. Wedged between the urban sprawl of Weymouth to one side, and the Army's firing ranges at Lulworth Cove to the other, eight miles of some of the South West Peninsula's most beautiful and spectacular coastline takes the walker from Osmington Mills to the western edge of the Cove itself.

From the Smugglers' Inn, the path follows the gentle curve of Ringstead Bay, passing the site of the medieval village of Ringstead now reduced to a series of barely discernible ripples in the turf.

In less than a mile the path climbs above the grey and crumbling slopes and buttresses of Burning Cliff, which flamed for a year in 1876 when the oil shale of which it is formed caught fire.

Peter Beaumont

OUTINGS

GLASSBLOWING OPEN WEEKEND: Workshop open to the public this weekend, with continuous glassblowing demonstrations and many items at discount prices. The London Glassblowing Workshop, Hope (Suffrage) Wharf, 109 Rotherhithe Street, London SE16 (01-237 0394). Today, tomorrow 11am-5pm. Admission free.

ARTISTS' WEEKEND AT THE WATERWAYS MUSEUM: Painters, etchers and craft workers who take inland waterways as their subject matter show their work, from oil paintings to miniature ships in bottles. Waterways Museum, Stoke Bruerne, Northamptonshire (0804 862229). Today, tomorrow 11am-5pm. Free.

BEARWOOD COLLEGE OPEN DAYS: A unique opportunity to visit the college - now a public school - and grounds built by John Walker, chief proprietor of *The Times* in the latter part of the 19th century. Bearwood College, Wokingham, Berkshire (0734 788915). Today, tomorrow, 2pm-6pm. Admission, £1 adults, 50p children and pensioners.

CENTRAL TV WRITERS' WORKSHOPS: Organized by the British Theatre Association, the second in a series of readings of plays written by members of the Writers Guild of Great Britain. Regent's College, Inner Circle, Regent's Park, London NW1 (01-436 2571). 2.30pm. Tickets £1. Check availability.

RAIL SUMMER FAIR: Family day out, with arena events including a grand parachute display and military band. Collections will be taken for the Royal National Lifeboat Institution. Castle Field, Southsea, Hampshire. Tomorrow 10am-5pm. Admission free.

GRANTCHESTER OPEN DAY: The gardens of Grantchester, including the Old Mill, Balls Grove, North End House, and The Old Vicarage (where Rupert Brooke once lodged, now owned by Jeffrey Archer) will be open. Grantchester, Cambridgeshire. 2-6pm.

NAPOLEONIC REDCOATS AT TYNEMOUTH: The 68th Display team in the guise of the British Light Infantry of Wellington's army will garb the castle, performing drill and trying to "persuade" the unsuspecting to take the King's shilling. Tynemouth Castle, Tyne and Wear (0632 571090). Today, tomorrow (10am-5pm). Adult £1.25, child 5-15 50p, under-5s free.

Judy Froshaug

WEEKEND BREAK

Hooked on the good life

Shona Crawford Poole spends a tranquil break on a farm in Avon and throws a line at some wily trout

I had been a while since getting out of bed at 4am was for fun. Usually it is to catch a plane, which is fine when it is a novelty.

The birds were already tuning up as Ormond Bristow padded across the stone-flagged kitchen of Butcombe Farm to fill a kettle. Peering from the eaves of his fishing hat, he coughed, and muttered to the soft Somerset morning as much as to me that only our hunter-killer instinct could account for this folly.

Well, we did a bit of hunting on the still waters of Blagdon Lake that dawn, but not much killing. The lake's wily trout knew better than to fall for my inept blandishments.

That they did not succumb to the Bristow wiles either meant that it was just one of those days when fishing is

The talk was of fish almost lost and nearly won

more about watching mist rising from the shallows, and close study of the courtship tribulations of coots.

By the time the rest of the world was properly awake, we were back in the kitchen warming wellie-chilled feet with bacon and eggs. Sunbeams, which had picked up fresh colours from flowers on the windowsill, played on the lovelocks of slug-bed fishermen who had yet to put their noses out of doors.

The talk was of sick fish, grenadiers and buzzers, of fish almost lost and nearly won. It was of good fishing companions and great days. And you don't have to give a fig for piscatorial concerns to be the better for exposure to so much quietly optimistic dedication.

Indifference is chilling. So sometimes is professionalism, but I do not think there is much danger that the Bristows will ever perfect that curious level of pasteurized interest in their guests that is a speciality of the products of Swiss hotels.

Sarah Bristow's blond, bundle-of-fun scattiness lends a



Casting away: (above) hunting trout on Blagdon Lake; (below, left) Butcombe Farm; (right) an old plough faces the sunset



Larkin quality to the enterprise. She deals in bric-a-brac (her description) and has a sharp eye for a good buy. He is a builder, quiet, steady. No matter that the post office says, they live in Avon, Somerset is where they started and where they are in spiritual if not bureaucratic reckoning.

Butcombe Farm appears on the old rolls as Aldwick Manor. Sometime after Domesday the Aldwicks, flush with funds, built a more imposing place up the lane and the old manor, with its 12th century courtroom, was renamed. The Bristows

bought the place five years ago, renovated the house and began entertaining fishermen and holidaymakers.

The old stone farm buildings have been converted into holiday cottages with views across to the Mendip Hills. Beams, antique furniture and ducklings on the pond meet a city rat's requirement for the romantic. A heated pool, a games room, and direct dialling telephones satisfy more recent needs.

The rich, rolling landscape could only be English. Here there are hedges and clover and head-high cow parsley.

Good pubs abound like the New Inn at Blagdon, overlooking the lake, and so popular on warm summer evenings that it is hard to get near the bar.

Directions for Butcombe, left off the A38 about 12 miles south west of Bristol at Cowslip Green, hint at the abrupt transition from city to country. On the Bristol Channel are the prosaic charms of Weston-super-Mare, and about the same distance in the opposite direction stand the solid splendours of Bath.

South, via Cheddar if you take the scenic route, lies the

TRAVEL NOTES

A double room at Butcombe Farm with breakfast costs £39 in June, July and August; £35 the rest of the year. Singles are £23 and £21 respectively. Self-catering cottages to sleep from two to six cost from £115 a week in low season to £275 in midsummer. Butcombe Farm, Aldwick Lane, Near Blagdon, Bristol BS16 6UW (0761-623801).

IN THE GARDEN

The gem-like geranium

Care Roberts

An increasing number of gardeners are coming to realize that geraniums are not simply familiar scarlet pots and bedding plants, but a whole genus of delightful plants of astonishing variety. Really pelargoniums, they have attracted gardeners through many centuries and continue to provide new varieties.

I count them among the most beautiful of plants, and in this season's grey rains I value more than ever the pools of pink, purple and magenta they make in the garden.

I first came to appreciate geraniums through the wild kinds, the bright little Herb Robert with its strong-smelling glossy, lacy leaves, colouring so well to brighten stony and damp corners of the winter. I still regret that I have no wall or stairway on which *Geranium lucidum*, the shining geranium with its tiny clear pink flowers and glossy jewels of leaves, would be at home.

Another wild species, the Meadow Cranesbill, will grow in almost any sunny position. Even under sullen clouds, the blue of its petals is deep and rich as the most brilliant summer sky.

There are many garden varieties closely related to the Meadow Cranesbill. Johnson's Blue is a commonly available hybrid, but while its larger violet-blue flowers with their dark veining are undeniably handsome, it does not catch at the heart like the Meadow Cranesbill, with its pale, translucent veining focusing to a centre of silvery white.

The wild species is rather sprawly in habit and best grown informally, near a natu-



ral support such as a hedge or tree stump. There are good double white and lavender varieties, and a double azure form which makes a more compact plant with frilled flowers of the same clear blue as the wild flower.

It is perhaps because geraniums have been cultivated and cross-bred for so long that there is so wide a differentiation in colouring, even with species and named varieties. I would always advise visiting a nursery or garden centre when the plants are in bloom to be sure of the precise colour and form that you want.

A species from southern Europe which grows very well here and has been cultivated in our gardens for at least five centuries is *Geranium macrorrhizum*, popular in England since at least the 16th century. In the wild flowers are a pink-purple, but the

famous alpine gardener Walter Inghenow found a white form, and the soft pink Inghenow's variety which bears his name.

Bloody Cranesbill, *Geranium sanguineum*, with its strong magenta flowers, can look stridently out of place beside other garden flowers, and I personally would leave the species to its native mountains and rocks and choose the variety Lancastriense, which comes in shades of light pink with crimson veining.

Knotted Cranesbill, *Geranium nodosum*, has large light green leaves, with a soft gloss

and the most delicate of pale rose-lilac flowers, crumpled and veined crimson. I have found it gleaming gently in the heart of limestone oaks in southern France: it loves the shade and will thrive as well under garden trees as it does in its native woods.

The Widow's Veil, *Geranium phaeum*, will also grow and keep its blooms for longer in a shady position. It is a subtly dramatic plant, the petals of its small flowers thrown back in a mourning velvety purple-black veil. The lighter colour forms and the white variety do not to my mind have such a strong impact.

For lightly shaded places or sunny places, the *Geranium endressii* varieties make handsome clumps, raising their pink blooms and flowering for all they are worth from summer into autumn. I always feel something of a charlatan over my geraniums, for in fact they grow themselves. Plant them in almost any soil and they thrive and flower with the minimum of fuss, though the attractiveness of the larger clumping kinds can be destroyed by stormy weather and they may need tying up.

Francesca Greenoak

WEEKEND TIPS

● Thin out grape clusters, and remove weaker or crowded bunches.

● Make sure runners and French beans, peas and tomatoes are adequately supported.

● Watch out for aphids and catch them early, washing them off with soft soap.

● Don't neglect indoor plants: take them outside and remove dead or leggy stems and leaves.

● Prune plum trees now or in the next few weeks as there is less risk of silver leaf infection.

GARDENS TO VISIT

TODAY
Powys: Glanusk Park, 2 miles west of Crickhowell off A40, 12 miles from Brecon, 8 miles from Abergavenny; 4 acres, formal garden, fine trees, kitchen garden; also open tomorrow; 2-6pm.

Buckinghamshire: The White Cottage, 32 Norton Road, 14 miles from Chalfont St. Peter off A413 at roundabout in Chalfont St. Peter; 1/3 acre, year-round interest, heathers, conifers, shrubs, old roses, small bog garden; also open tomorrow and July 1, 4, 5, 8; 2-6pm.

TOMORROW
Dorset: Forde Abbey, 4 miles south-east of Dorchester, 7 miles west of Crewkerne, off A30; 30 acres, fine shrubs and trees, herbaceous borders, rock, bog, and kitchen gardens; weekdays until Oct. 1, 11am-5pm, Sundays 2-6pm; closed Saturdays.

Cumbria: Holker Hall, Cartmel, Grange-over-Sands; 22 acres, formal garden, woodland, herbaceous borders, flowering trees and shrubs, sunken garden, heathers and roses; daily, excluding Saturdays, to end of Oct. 10.30am-4.30pm.

Yorkshire: Norton Conyers, 3 1/2 miles north of Ripon off A1 at Melmerby or A61 at Wath; large walled garden, old and unusual plants; open Aug 9; 2-5.30pm.

Wiltshire: Andover House, Charlton Park, 2 miles from

Malmesbury on A429; 5 acres, a series of gardens within a garden; fine trees, shrubs, herbaceous, herb garden, 500 roses; 2-6pm.

Roxburgh: Walton Hall, Roxburgh Street, Kelso; interesting garden in process of restoration, many unusual trees and shrubs, lovely sculptures; 2-6pm.

Kent: 14 gardens, from grand to tiny in and around Chiddingfold, off B2027 Edenbridge-Leigh road; one fee admits to all; 2-6pm.

Northfolk: Lanehead, Garboldisham, 8 miles west of Diss, medium-sized garden, shrubs, perennials, roses, ground cover, water garden, all-year interest and colour; also by appointment until Oct (095381 380); 10am-dusk.

Oxfordshire: Broadwell House, 5 miles north-east of Lechlade, east of A361 Lechlade-Burford road; 2 acres, fine trees and shrubs, topiary, grey and variegated plants; also open Aug 26 and Sep 20; 2-6pm.

Sussex: Banks Farm, Barcombe, 4 miles north of Lewes, between A275 and A26; 7 1/2 acres, shrubs, roses, water gardens, picture exhibitions; 2-6pm.

Gloucestershire: Ashley Manor, 3 miles north-east of Tetbury on A433; old garden, collection of clematis, roses, herbaceous borders, herbs; 2-6pm.

For your pleasure

Visitors to the Victoria and Albert Museum will from this week be able to see the new *Pirelli Garden*, opened by the Queen Mother on Tuesday. (Museum opening times: 10am-5.50pm Mon to Sat - Closed all day Friday; 2.30-5.50pm Sunday.)

One might reasonably expect this much-heralded piece of patronage to set a standard, but the effect is rather plain than formal, a somewhat unworthy compliment to the Victorian Italianate architecture, though it does at least allow an unimpeded view of it.

There will be a jazz concert (admission free) from 4-6pm tomorrow.

Last few days... If you are within driving distance of Southampton Arts Centre, now is your last chance to see the Hampshire Garden Trust's unique exhibition "Pleasure Grounds: the gar-

GARDEN NEWS

dens and landscapes of Hampshire.

This enterprising trust has researched and assembled from all over the country a remarkable selection of historic books, plans, tapestries, paintings and other artefacts relating to Hampshire garden landscapes (from documents of 1604 lent by Corpus Christi College, to accounts detailing payments to wedding women).

Admission free: opening times, today 10am-4pm; tomorrow 2-5pm. If you can't get to the exhibition, a book of the same name illustrates the items therein, with specialist text on garden development and a list of Hampshire gardens open to the public (£5.50 including p & p - cheques made out to Southampton City Council, Civic Centre, Southampton).

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SHOPPING

Why designers need to sharpen up their ideas

For a product to be considered well-designed, it must be usable while looking novel, according to Bram's design guru, Dieter Rams.

Yet, when it comes to cutlery, a recent trawl around London's specialist shops and stores threw up a remarkably lack-lustre collection of stainless steel and silver plate. Underlining Rams's comment in one respect - it's all thoroughly usable - it fell down with regard to the other, more creative aspect of design.

Curiously, it's the British Museum shop which has the most unusual offerings. Yet these were designed as long ago as 1903 by architect Charles Rennie Mackintosh. Two other designs, both by David Mellor, also stood out from the crowd: "Hoffmann", with its overtones of fin-de-siècle Vienna, and "Flute", attractively detailed and pleasantly heavy to hold.

No surprise, then, to learn that David Mellor originally trained as a silversmith and has worked on show in collections such as the V & A

Nicole Swengley goes in search of new styles to replace tired out tableware

Museum and New York's Museum of Modern Art.

Nor do imports provide more than a gloss of surface excitement. From Japan comes the Culture Club series offering, among other sets, a "Lunch Gear" pack with knife, fork and spoon slotting into a streamline, pocket-size case. "Edo", a more unusual silver-plated four-piece place-setting, would not be everyone's choice thanks to the chopstick-like implement accompanying the knife and two spoons.

At Olympia's Interior Design International exhibition earlier this year, *Blueprint*, the architectural and design magazine, put on a show of semi-abstract cutlery created by the Milan design group, Solid, and turned into prototypes by Rossana, the Italian kitchen company.

Although more sculptural than practical, the geometrically-shaped cutlery may achieve mass production in due course. But even if it doesn't reach the shops, at least it is stylish and innovative, unlike so much of the tired-out tableware we reluctantly purchase.

ADDRESS BOOK

Authentics: 42 Shelton Street, London WC2 (tel: 01-240 9845)

The British Museum Shop: British Museum, Great Russell Street, London WC1 (tel: 01-636 1555 x 422)

David Mellor: 25 James Street, London WC2 (tel: 01-379 6847)

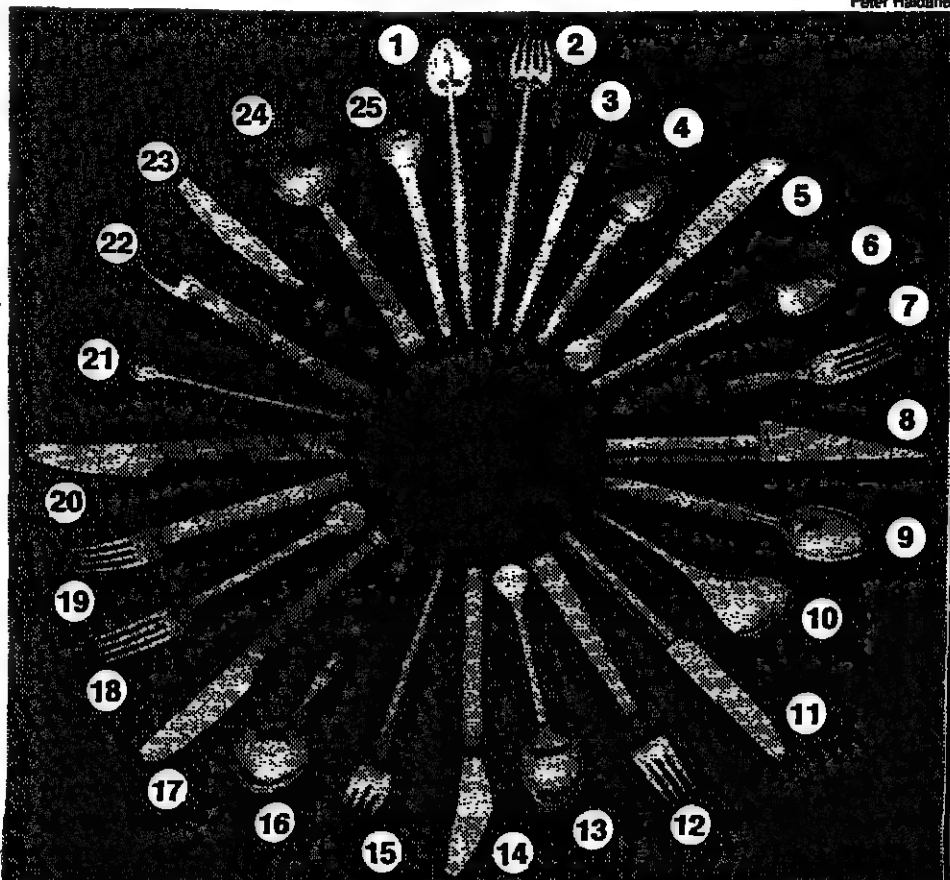
Divertimenti: 139-141 Fulham Road, London SW3 (tel: 01-581 8065)

Fast Forward: 14a Newburgh Street, London W1 (tel: 01-439 0091)

Heal's: 196 Tottenham Court Road, London W1 (tel: 01-636 1668)

Liberty: Regent Street, London W1 (tel: 01-734 1234)

Peter Hilditch



Choose your weapon:
1 & 2, Charles Rennie Mackintosh M.M.M silver-plated fish knife and fork, £105, crafted by Sabatini to the original 1903 design.
3 Silhouette silver-plated Mackintosh Muthesius fork, part of fork/spoon set, £88, all from British Museum Shop.
4 Courtier Oval stainless steel dessert spoon, £7.20, Liberty.
5 Hoffmann stainless steel table knife, £8.85, David Mellor.
6 Courtier Oval stainless steel soup spoon, £7.65, Liberty.
7 Navy blue plastic handle/stainless steel Bistrot fork, £1.35, Divertimenti.
8 Boda Nova stainless steel

cheese knife, £9.95, Liberty.
9 Rosenthal Cutlery Century porcelain handle/silver plated dessert spoon, £36.80, Liberty.
10 Large spoon from Edo silver-plated four-piece set, £120, Fast Forward.
11 Courtier Oval stainless steel knife, £7.76, Liberty.
12 Flute stainless steel fork, from six-piece set, £22.90, and 13 Hoffmann stainless steel dessert spoon, £8.85, both from David Mellor.
14 Rosenthal Century porcelain handle/silver plated knife, £28, Liberty.
15 Courtier steel Old Dutch fish fork, £7.50, Liberty.
16 Navy blue Bistrot soup spoon, £1.35, Divertimenti.
17 Rosenthal Suomi

stainless steel knife, £11.30, Liberty.
18 Hoffmann stainless steel dessert fork, £7, David Mellor.
19 Courtier Oval white handled dinner fork, from six-piece set, £44.95, Heal's.
20 Flute knife, part of six-piece set, £22.90, David Mellor.
21 Silver spoon from Edo four-piece set, £120, Fast Forward.
22 Rosenthal Suomi stainless steel meat fork, £10.30, Liberty.
23 Navy blue Bistrot knife, £1.40, Divertimenti.
24 Flute spoon, part of six-piece set, £22.90, David Mellor.
25 Silhouette silver-plated Mackintosh Muthesius spoon, part of fork/spoon set, £88, British Museum Shop

NEWS LINES

Anyone staunchly trying to preserve the pleasures of Edwardian-style picnics despite our wet summer, might be cheered by the "Tea For Two" portable picnic kit containing crunchy biscuits, English preserve and a box of tea sachets in a decorative box. All you need provide are the hot water flask, lemon slices and scones. It costs £6.50 from Crabtree & Evelyn shops at 6 Kensington Church Street, London W8; 34 King's Road, London SW3, and 30 James Street, London WC2.

With millions of working days lost annually because of back trouble, the Ergoform Workseat, developed to prevent back pain, adapts to users' movements without need of manual adjustments. It costs £395 from The Back Shop, 24 New Cavendish Street, London W1. Tel: 01-935 9120.

With a new demand for friendly-faced clocks rather than digital, Hertfordshire manufacturers, MD Clocks, have won Design Centre endorsement. Their quartz wall, mantle and alarm clocks are available, from £9.95, at The Design Centre, 28 Haymarket, London SW1 and branches of Habitat.

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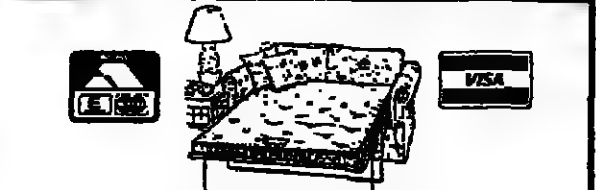
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THE TIMES COOK

Inspirations from Provence

Inspired by memories of holidays past, Lynda Brown selects some inexpensive French dishes for the English table, from poor man's caviar to monkfish and pig's trotters

It's Sunday morning in Beaumes-de-Venise, and already by late May Provence seems to be blessed with more than its share of the good life.

From the corner *épicerie* we bought olives, a milky fresh goats cheese, strawberries and cherries *du pays*, and a ripe, fragrant Charentais melon. Asparagus, artichokes, cardoons, *blette*, fresh garlic, big fat tomatoes, *pleurotte* mushrooms are all to be had, too.

As Madame obligingly cut open the melon for us, she directed us to a tiny *charcuterie* for a slab of her succulent *pâté de maison*. From the *boulangerie* we bought a crusty fresh loaf and a *pain de nuit*, and from a *pâtisserie* three exquisite glazed tarts.

The next day, it was to be some delicious *légumes* or *caillottes* from Monsieur Felix in Châteauneuf-du-Pape; on the third day, some fruity olive oil from the splendid country market at Vaison-la-Romaine. Everywhere there were little homemade goats cheeses, lovingly graded in neat rows, from the curd-like *fruits* to the pungent and shrivelled *picodon*.

It is true; you eat better in France. At the friendly and

hospitable Hotel Montmirail in Vacqueyras, amid shady and peaceful surroundings, we dined handsomely for £9.50. This delicious *hors d'oeuvre*, a *tapenade*, or poor man's caviar, made with olives and capers, is one of their specialties which could become a favourite over the summer here also.

Tapenade marseillaise

Serves 6-8

200g/7oz white or preferably light brown bread, crusts removed
250g/8oz stoned black olives
30g/1oz rinsed and drained capers
4 anchovy fillets
6cm/2½in piece of celery and white part of leek, finely chopped
2 peeled and chopped fresh cloves of garlic
3 small shallots, or half small onion, peeled and chopped
½ crumbled bayleaf
1 tsp chopped fresh thyme
75mls/2½fl oz each of milk and fruity olive oil

Simply moisten the bread with the milk and put everything with half the olive oil in

a blender or food processor and process to a paste. Scrape into a bowl and leave in the fridge for 24 hours, during which time the tapenade will darken.

Stir in the rest of the olive oil and serve as part of an *hors d'oeuvre* in little mounds decorated with a lettuce leaf or, as they do in Hotel Montmirail, pressed into tiny white china pots, with rounds of French bread, baked in the oven until hard and golden brown.

Four days later, armed with Alan Davidson's *Mediterranean Seafood* (recently reissued by Penguin), we headed for the coast, and one of the many idyllic hill-top villages, La Cadière d'Azur, near Bandol. Here thyme and lavender give way to the smell of the sea and *soupe de poissons*, an unctuous fish broth, flavoured with saffron, and eaten with rouille spread on dry baked croutons rubbed with garlic.

At the very French Hostellerie Bérard, pots and pans bang in the kitchen from 7 in the morning till 11 at night, as M. Bérard prepares food matched only by the splendid view. This is adapted from one of his specialties on the *menu gourmandise*.

Lettre au safran

Serves 4

Approx 900g/2lb monkfish
80g/2oz finely chopped shallot
120g/4oz button mushrooms, wiped and chopped into small cubes
15g/½oz butter

Add the fish slices, first patted dry, and using a little extra butter if necessary, cook for about three minutes turning once, or until the fish is just done. Pour in the brandy



generous 60ml/2fl oz brandy

450ml/1½pt light fish stock
1 pkt (1.25g) powdered saffron plus pinch of saffron threads
90-120ml/3-4oz creme fraiche or double cream

Cut the monkfish into thickish oval slices about 75g/2½oz each, and soak in milk for a couple of hours. Melt the butter in a frying pan — preferably non-stick — and gently sweat the shallots until transparent. Add the mushrooms, cook for a couple of minutes and reserve.

Add the fish slices, first patted dry, and using a little extra butter if necessary, cook for about three minutes turning once, or until the fish is just done. Pour in the brandy

and set alight, taking due care as usual.

When the flames have died down remove the fish to a serving dish and keep warm in a low oven. Deglaze the pan with the fish stock, tip in the shallot/mushroom mixture, and cook vigorously to reduce by about a third.

Add the saffron and cream, reduce a little more until the sauce starts to thicken slightly and the flavour and balance seem right, and pour the vivid yellow sauce, heady with saffron, around the fish. Serve with rice.

The *daubes* of Provence are dark chocolate-brown, richly flavoured stews, with a tang of orange-peel and meat tender enough to eat with a spoon. Their essential characteristic, which gives them both their name and their savour, is the

slow cooking in a hermetically sealed pot for several hours.

La daube de boeuf à la provençale

(Serves 6)

Approx 1.3kg/3lb shin of beef, trimmed of obvious fat
1 litre/35fl oz red wine
2 tbs wine vinegar
2 onions, peeled and sliced
3 carrots, peeled, sliced lengthways and cut in two
120g/4oz pork back fat, diced into neat strips
bouquet garni: parsley, thyme and 2 bay leaves
3 large cloves of garlic, peeled
thinly pared orange rind
1 clove
500ml/16fl oz water
calf's foot or 2 pig's trotters, washed and split in half

Either buy the meat in a piece to prepare at home, or get your butcher to slice it into thick neat slices weighing approx 100g/3½oz each. Marinate overnight with the wine, wine vinegar, carrots and one of the onions, sliced.

Choose a roomy casserole (a Le Creuset is ideal) and start by cooking the pork fat. In this, brown the second onion, sliced finely, followed by the meat, wiped first with kitchen paper, and the drained onion from the marinade. Let everything brown nicely, but on no account let it burn.

Pour in the marinade and bring to a brisk boil. Add all the rest of the seasonings, together with 2-4 thinly pared strips of orange peel, the water, and the trotters, burying these down in the meat. Cover tightly and leave in a very low oven, 110-120C/225-

250F/gas mark ¼-½, for 5 hours.

Discard the trotters — the bits of meat make good pickings — and the bouquet garni, transfer the meat to a serving dish, and keep warm. Skim the fat from the sauce and put the pan on top of the stove. It will probably still be on the thin side (calf's foot, not readily available here, has greater gelatinous properties, and I suspect this is what gives the *daubes* of France their extra body). If this is so, reduce further over a gentle heat, or thicken lightly with a little potato flour slaked in water. Pour over the meat and serve with pasta.

One final point. Unless you particularly like it, go easy on the orange peel. Even a couple of strips of peel will flavour the stew with a perceptible hint of orange.

DRINK

From poetry to hi-tech taste

Drive north from San Francisco on Highway 121 and almost the first item of note as you enter wine country — en route to the dull, grey little town of Napa — is a large hoarding inscribed with Robert Louis Stevenson's gushing quote that concludes "and the wine is bottled poetry".

Stevenson could, perhaps, be forgiven. He visited California and the Napa Valley on his honeymoon, in 1880.

Stevenson's visit coincided with the first great California wine boom, led by European immigrants who stayed on after the 1849 Gold Rush, and planted vines in Napa and the neighbouring Sonoma region, making wine just as they had done at home. By 1889 there were 142 wineries in the Napa

Valley — more than there are today.

But in 1920 Prohibition swiftly changed all that. By 1933, when making wine became legal again, just 40 of the valley's wineries had survived. They had kept going by dint of making communion wine, selling grapes or — rather more imaginatively — producing wine bricks, made from compressed grapes, which came complete with a little yeast tablet and the stern warning "Do not immerse this brick in water and add sugar otherwise an illegal alcoholic beverage will result".

The second Californian wine boom began, more or less, with the foundation of Robert Mondavi's winery in 1966. A huge, Spanish-mission-style structure, it led the way for numerous other Californian wineries, now bristling with million dollar hi-tech equipment and often run by university-trained men and women in their twenties.

One of the best places for charting California's progress is at Geoffrey Roberts's annual Golden State wine tasting. The stars of this year's show were an extraordinarily fine pair from the Acacia

London W1 £11.59), the cost of three wines of the same quality from Burgundy would be much higher.

The splendid '83 Iron Horse Brut — made by the *methode champenoise* in Sonoma's Green Valley by a Californian winemaker working in conjunction with a Reims-

trained Frenchman — is another superb summer wine. Its lively, crisp, racy, flowery fruit (priced at £13.95 from Majestic and The Winery, 4 Clifton Road, Maiden Vale, London W9 £14.25) is indeed bottled poetry.

Jane MacQuitty

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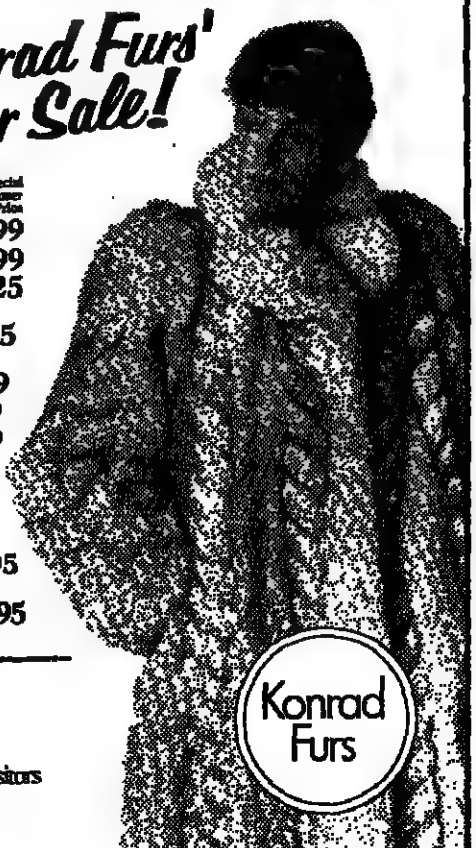
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The fragrant, smoky, elegant '85 Chardonnay with its delicious overtones of pineapple-like fruit and cinnamon-scented oak is, in my opinion, as close to a white burgundy as any Californian producer has got. (Bibendum, 113 Regents Park Road, London NW1, £11. La Reserve, 56 Walton Street, London SW3, £13.20).

Equally impressive is the '84 Pinot Noir, whose smoky-flowery scent is backed up by a very fine, rich, gamey palate (Bibendum £9.44, La Reserve £11.50), whose obvious classic quality would again worry many a Burgundian grower.

Robert Mondavi's '84 Reserve is another summer Chardonnay treat. It would be superb with fresh salmon and a hollandaise sauce, and I loved its golden colour, ripe pineapple fruit and positive smoky-toasty scent. Although pricey (Majestic Wine Warehouse £11.59, Les Amis du Vin, 5) Chiltern Street,

Ingredients: 2 bottles of Le Piat d'Or (red or white) with the special Gourmet Club foil top. One

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THE ARTS

Chris Peachment welcomes the BBC's season of Hammer films, and Alexandra Shulman reviews last night's foretaste

The strength of Hammer horror films was that everybody knew what they were getting. As the living dead clawed their ghastly way up through mouldy graves or Count Dracula lunged at yet another jugular, the element of surprise was made satisfyingly predictable. The ingredients of horror were also unchanging — one Christopher Lee, one Peter Cushing, a smattering of Scandinavian maidens and a gloomy house where daylight never made it through the window panes.

When producer Anthony Hinds packaged a new offering he needed only a catchy title like *To Love a Vampire*

TELEVISION

and an appropriately lurid poster for the deal to be struck. Nobody demanded a script, a plot or a cast list. The Hammer formula was known to be sound enough collateral. Nick Jones and David Thompson's *Hammer: The Studio that Dripped Blood* (BBC2) was a fond look at the history of this garish genre.

With studios on the Thames at Bray where Technicolor classics such as *The Evil of Frankenstein*, *Rasputin the Mad Monk* and *Dracula, Prince of Darkness* were filmed in what amounted to a large house and garden, there seemed something quintessentially English about the whole outfit. Listening to the key members interviewed including Hinds, scriptwriter Jimmy Sangster and house composer James Bernard, the overall impression was of a bunch of enthusiastic amateurs doing jolly well indeed. The whole enterprise had a suburban quality to it; the budgets were always slender, the crew bussed in daily from London, and the final product was reassuringly peculiar to that particular time, and to that moment in time.

In keeping with this mood *The Studio that Dripped Blood* was a rollicking good romp, from the shrieking blood red of the titles to the scarlet tapers employed to light Christopher Lee's sinister face. The many film clips were not as imaginatively edited as they might easily have been, but not a family favourite was missed out.

A.S.

Just good friends: Peter Cushing laying hands on Christopher Lee — Hammer's odd couple — in *Curse of Frankenstein*, and (right) a poster for *Dracula*

The horror without

The horror these days is all within. From *Rosemary's Baby*, where a girl gives birth to the Devil, to *Nightmare on Elm Street*, where a girl's nightmares become real and invade her waking life, all the demons lurk in the dark corners of an internal landscape. Indeed the butcher's-block films of David Cronenberg confirm that real horror is to be found not in the outside world but in the viscera, of all and soft organs of the human body itself: anywhere under the skin, in fact.

There was a time, however, when one could be decently scared. Tonight the BBC starts a season of 12 Hammer horror pictures, which demonstrate that Britain's most successful small independent studio used to make pictures in which the horror came from Transylvania, a mad scientist's laboratory or a mummy's tomb; the threat was always alien and, while it would raise the short hairs on your neck, it never revolted you.

This age of innocence, which began for Hammer with the runaway success *The Curse of Frankenstein* in 1957, was well chronicled by last night's

pilot programme *Hammer — The Studio that Dripped Blood* (reviewed by Alexandra Shulman, left).

Apart from David Pirie's book *A Heritage of Horror*, there has been the usual British reluctance to take notice of our recent cinematic sub-culture; there have been endless items about Ealing and Alexander Korda, but the dark passions of the Gainsborough melodramas of the Forties, or the continuation of our Gothic tradition by Hammer, have yet to find many champions.

Hammer used an attractive house at Bray, on the banks of the Thames, as their studios. And their chief art director, Bernard Robinson, could work one set for two films being shot back to back, so the ice which cracks and traps Dracula looks remarkably similar to the ice which is Rasputin's final resting-place. And not only the ice — Rasputin and Dracula also look remarkably similar, give or take a beard or two.

Christopher Lee, Hammer's leading man alongside Peter Cushing, now appears an inspired piece of casting, but it was largely a fortuitous accident. He was cast as the monster in *The*

Curse of Frankenstein simply because they wanted a very big, very tall man. Terence Fisher spotted him and cast him in Hammer's first *Dracula*, thus giving cinema the truest portrait of Bram Stoker's original: Bela Lugosi's Grand Guignol intensity was displaced by a glowing, dark figure of ambiguous charm and erotic menace. Above all, Lee realized that the Count is a tragic figure: unable to die, and forever doomed to a friendless life of stalking the night.

Lee's first entrance as the Count is especially memorable. In full-length cloak, he swoops down a carved staircase as if he were travelling three inches above the ground — an effect, incidentally, enhanced by the careful erasure of his footsteps from the soundtrack.

Peter Cushing was always the man who, in the words of Martin Scorsese, looked like he would know what to do about Dracula. Among his many anecdotes is the suggestion that he was the first man to undertake organ transplants, long before Dr Christian Barnard; and he also explains how the

famous crossed candlesticks first vanquished the Prince of Darkness.

Of the many Hammer leading ladies, Ingrid Pitt is clearly the most durable. She first encountered the producer from Hammer at a party and persuaded him to give her a part the next day; his advice, unlikely as it may seem for a Hammer film, was to go home and get some sleep. Later problems that she encountered included arriving to find Peter Cushing decapitating a model of her; and having her false fangs drop down the cleavage of a lady victim.

By the early Seventies Hammer's star had begun to wane. *The Exorcist* pointed the way towards what audiences now wanted from a horror film. And the proposed *Zeppelin versus Perodactyl* was never made, which in retrospect is a great pity. They did, however, have one big success in 1968 with their version of *The Devil Rides Out*, which anticipates the theme of *Rosemary's Baby*.

C.P.

The season of 12 Hammer horror films begins tonight on BBC2 at 9.40pm, with *Dracula — Prince of Darkness*.

Flickering fireworks

CONCERTS

Philharmonia/Knussen Snape Maltings

There had been a long wait for the first concert by a symphony orchestra at this year's Aldeburgh Festival, but the drought was ended last night with a drenching of exuberance and inventiveness.

Britten's *Building of the House* overture, itself a work of supreme confidence and brilliance, was merely the prelude to a programme that included the British premiere of works by Carter and Henze, as well as rare performances of two pieces from the period of fantastical orchestral imagination that came just before the First World War: Berg's *Altenberglieder* and Debussy's *Saint Sébastien* excerpts.

Carter's *A Celebration of some 100 x 150 notes*, commissioned for the 150th anniversary of the State of Texas, is a three-minute work of fanfares and excitement, a piece in which every flickering idea is a celebration.

The exhilaration is, of course, over too soon; that is the point. And the wit of this tiny cheer for Texan bigness was by no means diminished by an immediate encore, not least because the orchestra deserved two rounds of applause for putting all those notes in place.

In every respect this was an Oliver Knussen programme, and he was on hand not only to conduct with precision and affection, but also to steer a course through his own brief

Third Symphony, which fitted with Carter in its energy and with Berg in its dappled virtuosity.

His own note referred us again to the idea of an Ophelia symphonic poem behind the single movement, the sketch of a mad scherzo and a funeral march. But the wildness and the miniaturized, toy character of much of the musical imagery relate much more strongly to his opera, *When the Wild Things Are*, which was in his mind at the same time. The symphony is the work of a modern Ravel, and it was beautifully played.

Ravel was also suggested by Henze's *Fandango* which is a view of an old dance form as a kind of frenzy. The 10-minute piece is based on a fandango by Soler, but the original is seen bicely-eyed through layers of slowly moving harmony and beneath festoons of piano and percussion: it is a mutation of the dance into dumb darkness and threat, and Henze's suggestion that we hear in it "Goya's dancing village fool" seems very apt.

But in its muddle, however deliberate, the piece was perhaps an unfortunate choice of finale, especially after a luminously clear performance of the Debussy, which Knussen had set forth with grace and innocence. He brought the same sense of a fresh hearing to the Berg, even if that meant exposing the unfortunate tones of the harmonium at the end of the first song; a small price, in any event, for such exquisite blendings and meaningful polyphony. Heather Harper is now stretched by the wide range of these ecstatic songs, but her warm-heartedness was fully Bergian.

Paul Griffiths

LSO/Tilson Thomas Barbican

If we are lucky, the best features of the Gershwin Festival currently in progress at the Barbican will prove to be an accurate foretaste of what is in store when Michael Tilson Thomas takes over as the London Symphony Orchestra's principal conductor next year.

In this series, scholarship and razzamatazz go hand in hand. The inclusion of *Rhapsody in Blue* was inevitable, but it is typical of Tilson Thomas that he should play it himself and perform it in the original 1924 orchestration. To anybody who is used to hearing the piece with a full backing of Hollywood strings, this version, with its pungent dance band feel, comes as little less than a revelation.

Among the purely French works, Ravel's *Piano Concerto* for the left hand had a fine, idiomatic performance from Michel Béroff and there were lucid and transparent textures to be heard from Tilson Thomas and the orchestra and Debussy.

Richard Fairman

Student unrest

OPERA

Le nozze di Figaro Royal Academy

The student posters about the recent staffing troubles at the Royal Academy of Music were present and vocal enough; but one had hoped that the present wranglings would be temporarily forgotten in the delight of end-of-term Mozart. Alas, if this year's opera class is anything to go by, the Academy is no more a centre of excellence than your or my front doorstep.

The taut, fizzing overture promises much; indeed, Nicholas Cleobury's contribution throughout in the pit almost saves the day. Andrew Sinclair's staging has thought and long about many details of character response and reaction; but he doesn't know how to select, where to

draw the line. "Non più andrai" does not demand a non-stop dumbshow, and Marcellina doesn't have to behave consistently like an ugly sister out of *Cinderella*.

Most worrying, though, was the contribution of the students themselves. One does not look for perfectly finished performances: potential must outweigh achievement on such an occasion. But among the cast I saw (a second one plays on Tuesday) there was scarcely one singer who did not display quite serious problems of either production or projection.

The exception is Nicolas Cavalieri's Bartolo: a wonderfully secure bass, at ease with himself and with the stage. Clara Miller's Susanna, too, has fewer problems than most with her fragile but vivacious soprano and winsome stage presence.

Hilary Finch

DEBUT

The viola player Robert Secrez, in partnership with the pianist Nicola Grunberg, offered an enterprising selection of works in his recital, including the first performance of Paul Drayton's *Sonatina*, described by its composer as "an attempt to impart a little light-heartedness into the rather solemn repertoire of the viola". Despite its bluesy fluctuations of pitch, the manner of the work was actually rather insipid, its wit lacking the twinkle in the eye that one had hoped for. One might call it a useful addition to the repertoire rather than a significant one.

As for Secrez, his playing is mellow-toned but his intonation is not always reliable, and perhaps nerves hampered his ability to provide the tonal and dynamic contrasts necessary for Brahms's E-flat Sonata, Op. 120 No. 2. Likewise Bloch's Suite of 1919, which combines a Brahmsian

Stephen Pettitt

BREAKING THE CODE

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Hard cell

THEATRE

Short Eyes Young Vic Studio

Given the freak-show thrill still aroused by artworks from American penitentiaries, let me recommend Miguel Pinero's piece for its own sake, irrespective of the author's additional credits as a convicted mugger and drug addict.

Short Eyes won a "best new American play" award in 1974, and the only reason I can imagine for its failure to cross the Atlantic before now is the difficulty of ethnic casting: a task impressively overcome in David Herskovits's Half Moon production, deservedly transferred to the Young Vic.

The play is a criminal variant on the American male solidarity prototype, showing a mixed pack of felons in a New York detention centre sharing their quarrels at the arrival of a newcomer whom they mark down as the outsider and destroy. The victim is a suspected child rapist, the lowest of the low in the criminal pecking order. Even the guard looks on approvingly as they taunt him, beat

him up, and, finally, knife him to death.

Pinero shows the violence as a matter-of-fact element of prison life, but his real interest is setting it in a moral context. For a start, he invites little sympathy for the wretched Clark, a whining self-pityful figure, faintly trying to pull middle-class rank, and guilty of all he is accused of. The point is that only one of the group — a Puerto Rican to whom he confesses — knows this, and tries to protect him. It is the others, to whom Clark is no more than a suspect, who kill him — an act which polarizes them into a murderous pecking order, with some of the toughest quelling when it comes to the point.

Pinero draws no messages, but it is a fable that has plenty of application elsewhere. Mr Herskovits's production combines dangerous pent-up energy with fastidious precision, achieving clearly drawn lines through dialogue in criminal slang (to which the programme devotes a full page glossary). Its immediate impact is to plunge you into the raw brutalities of the slammer, and also to show the inmates having fun with (rather too well rehearsed) dance routines.

Irving Wardle

DANCE

George The Place

To conclude their London season, the Dutch Group Dansproduktie are giving three performances (the last is tonight) of *Georgia*, based on the music of the American composer George Antheil (1900-1959). What the three choreographers single out as the attraction of his music is its restlessness and fragmentation, qualities emphasized by their shuffling sections from several works, repeating some pieces with different dances, and bringing very different approaches to bear on it.

The pieces chosen are chamber works: three sonatas for violin and piano dating from 1923-6, when Antheil was a member of the Futurist movement in Paris; the violin solo *Printemps*, from 1924; and a violin and piano sonata written in New York 21 years later. Rudolf Notrop (violin) and Paul Preenen show stamina, skill and humour as exponents of the agitated, kaleidoscopic scores which in their aggressiveness and use of quotations perhaps owe as much to Antheil's friend Ezra Pound as to musical influences.

I was not convinced that one would sit down eagerly to a concert of Antheil's music, but it makes the basis of an engaging dance performance. Not the least attraction is the way its set dances and the informal linking passages reveal the five dancers as likeable people, varied in technical ability but united in the pursuit of expressiveness through controlled, wholehearted activity.

Anne-Marie Blom's determined manner and Kathy Dekker's more reserved style both come over in solos by Bianca van Dillen, Caroline Dokter, shrewdly knowing but open, emerges as a complex personality; resilient, too, in a duet with Guido Severien with choreography by Denies Louwerse who also joins Severien in a macho male duet. Best of all are the interactions among the dancers, with Angela Linsen responsible for the most fluently energetic group sections of the choreography.

J.P.

John Percival applauds a triumphant opening in Paris

Ballet with a power to thrill

In the Middle, Somewhat Elevated Opéra, Paris

William Forsythe's new ballet just created for the Paris Opéra is the most exciting I have seen anywhere for a long time. It is utterly simple in appearance, just nine dancers on a harshly lit stage surrounded by black curtains, but the eye and the mind are ravished by the urgency, intricacy and authority of the movement.

Imagine that the Balanchine who responded to Hindemith, Webern and late Stravinsky by inventing a new way of using the steps of classical ballet, had gone on to become similarly inspired by the dancers, music and spirit of 1987, and you can form some idea of the quality of the piece.

It helps of course to have such talents as Sylvie Guillem, Isabelle Guérin, Laurent Hilaire and Manuel Legris, Nureyev's youngest and most recently promoted star dancers, but the work does not depend only on the brilliance of that gifted quartet. Forsythe makes everyone in it look marvellous.

He sets the small bouncy energy of Karin Averty beside Guillem's supercharged forcefulness, uses Fanny Gaida's poise and pliancy in a duet with Legris full of casually daring balances, and has flame-haired young Lionel Delanoe competing in speed and bravado with Hilaire and Legris as they traverse the big stage in diagonal movement, like rockets through a night sky.

Virginie Rousseliere and Nathalie Aubin, plucked from among the many ambitious



Rich complexity: Karin Averty dances with Lionel Delanoe

youngsters in the company's lower ranks, are not featured as prominently as the rest, but hold their own ably in the ensemble that keeps most of the cast active for most of the 27-minute duration.

The impact does not come merely from the thrust and apex of the steps, which bring out all the best qualities of the dancers, individually and collectively, while adding a harsh, competitive, sometimes aggressive edge. Equally important is the way the structure is organized so that to watch it is as surprising and intellectually satisfying as suddenly getting the hang of a difficult crossword puzzle.

There is a theme of movement, enunciated by Guillem with the other dancers joining in different phrases. The following solos and duets are a series of variations on this, and what makes the work more richly complex is the way other dancers accompany these episodes, interrupting, joining in or adding a contrast, while others again constitute a background of incessant activity on the darker edges of the stage, dancing, jogging or just watching intently.

Forsythe, born in New York, is 38 and has spent most of his career in Europe, chiefly Stuttgart and Frankfurt. For two years now all his ballets have been made in close collaboration with Tom Willems, a 32-year-old Dutchman. Sometimes he composes

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CHESS

Title shot

As this year's world championship approaches I will be completing my occasional series on the unsuccessful challenges with portraits of Bogolyubov this week and Zukertort in a later article.

Efim Bogolyubov (1889-1952) was born a Russian, but emigrated to Germany during the 1920s. It was a severe blow to the fledgling Soviet Chess Federation, which had already sustained the defection of Alekhine and Nimzowitsch, the joint all-Russian champions in 1913.

Bogolyubov twice challenged Alekhine for the championship, but was totally crushed on both occasions. For this reason Bogolyubov is often dismissed as a bumpkin who did not genuinely deserve a shot at the title. As far as the 1929 challenge is concerned this view is quite unjust — during the 1920s Bogolyubov's powerful style had swept him to victory in a variety of outstanding tournaments. But after his thrashing at Alekhine's hands in 1929, by the score of 15½-9½, much of the vitality seemed to evaporate from his play, and the 1934 rematch was a predictable debacle. Here is one of Bogolyubov's wins from the first title clash:

White: Bogolyubov; Black: Alekhine. Nimzo-Indian Defence, fourth game, 1929 World Championship

An improvement would be 6... Qa5, maintaining the pin.

Raymond Keene

BRIDGE

Gold rush game

As a measure of inflation, one could do worse than take the size of the pool in New York's annual Calcutta Tournament, held at the Cavendish Club. This year it reached the staggering sum of \$290,000. Bridge players should beware. If it increases any more, the club may find Ballesteros, Becker or even Steve Davis himself knocking at the door.

British players usually join in the gold rush. This year Scotland was represented by Victor Silverstone and Derek Diamond, and Barnet Shenkin playing with Irving Rose. Thanks in part to an unhappy misreading incident, Shenkin and Rose finished out of the money, leaving the task of swelling our invisible imports to the peripatetic Zia Mahmood.

The method of scoring, whereby each pair cross-IMPs (that is to say, compares scores) with every pair sitting in the opposite direction, seems to inflate the significance of the big hands. Barnet Shenkin and Irving Rose featured in one of the most dramatic swings of all time when Shenkin had to find a lead against the World Pairs Champions Meckstroth and Rodwell, after this convoluted bidding sequence:

Shenkin (South) held:
♠ K 8 7
♥ 7 4 2
♦ 6
♣ A K J 7 4 2

Only a trump will defeat the slam. When declarer plays a club, as he must, North ruffs and plays a second round of trumps, to leave declarer a trick short. No fewer than 398 IMPs turned on that decision.

I can only sympathise with Shenkin, whilst admiring the sure-footed way that Meckstroth and Rodwell performed their high-wire act.

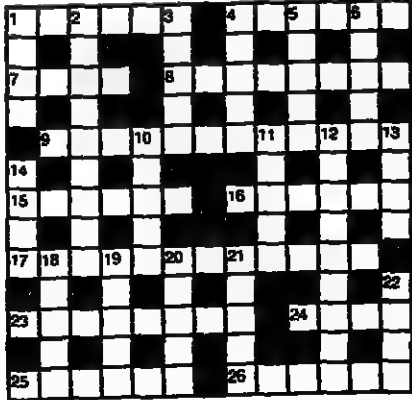
Jeremy Flint

CONCISE CROSSWORD NO 1294

Prizes of the New Collins Thesaurus will be given for the first two correct solutions opened on Thursday, July 2. Entries should be addressed to The Times Concise Crossword Competition, 1 Pennington Street, London, E1 9XN. The winners and solution will be announced on Saturday, July 4.

ACROSS
1 VDU pointer (6)
4 Bracelet (6)
7 London nightlife area (4)
8 Overflowing (8)
9 Sailfish (7,5)
15 Rogue (6)
16 Stand idly (6)
17 Personal radio (6-6)
23 Airships pioneer (8)
24 Attract (4)
25 Package (6)
26 Isolated (6)

DOWN
1 Barrel (4)
2 Performance practice (9)
3 Synagogue minister (5)
4 Convey (5)
5 Beautiful maiden (5)
6 Passenger ship (5)
10 Yellow-brown (5)
11 Shallows (5)
12 Ascribe (9)
13 Scottish church (4)
14 Cornish bird (5)
15 Conflict scene (5)
19 Silk cotton (5)
20 Oscillation (5)
21 Make void (5)
22 Confederate (4)



The winners of prize concise No 1283 are: Mrs M W. Wood, Corgo Flen Lane, Grimsby; Middleburgh, Cleveland; and F.I.I.I.I. Pilkington, Brossley Cottage, Tillingham, Hereford.

SOLUTION TO NO 1293
ACROSS: 1 Barrow 4 Shriell 7 Away 8 Dionysus 9 Insignia 11 Rally 12 Giuseppe Verdi 15 Fiend 16 Chemise 20 Restrict 21 Gail 22 Eclair 23 Hedera
DOWN: 1 Bracing 2 Reams 3 Width 4 Slow 5 Insular 6 Lunny 10 Greed 11 Revere 13 Utiens 14 Inertia 15 Farce 17 Rutch 18 Inate 19 Tier

SOLUTION TO NO 1288 (last Saturday's prize concise)
ACROSS: 1 Patron 4 Surety 7 Nail 8 Grandeur 9 Charterhouse 15 Warm-Up 16 Oviscap 17 Protectorate 23 Grossone 24 Alto 25 Al-fer 26 Needle
DOWN: 1 Punny 2 Thirteenth 3 Night 4 Stair 5 Rodeo 6 Trust 10 Rouge 11 Haver 12 Unsusited 13 Each 14 Swap 18 Rural 19 Theme 20 Chore 21 Ocean 22 Fore

Name: _____
Address: _____

REVIEW

Macbeth with romance

CLASSICAL RECORDS

Verdi: *Macbeth*. Verratti/Nucci/Ramsey/Luchetti. Bologna Orch./Chailly. Decca 417 525 2012 (2 CDs).
Mozart: *Così fan tutte*. Vaness/Ziegler/Watson/Alar/Duesing/Dessler. LPO/Hallmark. EMI CDS 7 47727 8 (3 CDs).

Three summers ago Riccardo Chailly opened the Salzburg Festival with Verdi's *Macbeth* and came in for a good deal of critical flak. Much of it was quite undeserved and should have been directed at the misguided production of Piero Faggoni. Chailly has returned to *Macbeth* this time for a film version by Claude d'Anna, which was given a single screening on the South Bank recently, but now seems destined to disappear from London until the end of the year. In this soundtrack recording, as at Salzburg, Chailly's own contribution is the most impressive element.

When Chailly arrived in Bologna to take up the artistic directorship of the opera he announced his intention of pushing the house up to international level. For *Macbeth* he uses the Bologna orchestra and makes it clear that he is well on the way to achieving his aims — the Bologna instrumentalists and chorus are outstanding in the big ensembles. Chailly does not attempt to hide the rawness of some of the music, but he does emphasize, as some conductors do not, the supernatural elements, especially in Macbeth's unhappy visit to the witches in Act III — *Macbeth* is, after all, a romantic opera. The standard of playing is high enough to make one wish that Chailly had included the ballet music.

Decca's new recording has to push into a crowded market as far as CD is concerned: there are three rival versions of an opera which is scarcely Verdi's most popular work. Shirley Verrett sang Lady Macbeth for Claudio Abbado (DG) many years ago, and the interpretation has not improved with the passing of time. The high notes are pinched and the *brindisi*, where she tries to calm a few nerves, is a notable sufferer. She is, alas, the main obstacle to an outright recommendation. Leo Nucci, currently on view in Covent Garden's *Barbieri*, is a positive and highly dramatic Macbeth, well up to the standard of his rivals, even Bruson (Philips). Samuel Ramey's Banquo is



Bewitched by Dunsinane: Verdi's *Macbeth* comes to the screen with Leo Nucci and Shirley Verrett

as impressive as one might expect — highly impressive. But Verano Luchetti's Macduff is disappointingly middle-aged for a role that needs a youthful sheen from the tenor — Decca could have cast better here.

The set is well worth exploring for Chailly, and the film, when it at last arrives, may help. But Abbado on DG, despite its years, probably remains first choice, and there are many excitements with Sinopoli (Philips), despite another poor Lady Macbeth.

From film to the theatre, and EMI's Glyndebourne *Così*, neatly timed to coincide with this season's outstanding revival. The qualities of the set are precisely those to be heard in Sussex at the moment: a cast assembled with an ear and an eye to balance, and to

realizing the quicksilver changes of mood in the opera, its extreme theatricality and, above all, a sense of interplay. The special delight of the film, whether it be officer with officer, sister with sister, or woman with man.

The Despina and Alfonso, Lillian Watson and Claudio Desderi, are slightly more dominant on record than in the theatre at the moment; he shows more than a bit of misogyny — note the contemptuous spitting out of "Cor di femmina" in the Act I monologue — while she, silvery voiced, is very much in command. Dale Duesing, the other surviving member of this year's cast, is the charming, laid-back Guglielmo — but why not let him sing "Rivolgete a lui"

as he does at Glyndebourne, instead of "Non state ritrosi?"

John Aler, now a specialist in high tenor roles, is a disarming Ferrando. Carol Vaness, another singer who has gone on to an international career since Glyndebourne spotted her, is a touch heavyweight as Fiordiligi, but worth it for the handling of "Per pietà". Only Dolores Ziegler's Dorabella lacks character, and she sometimes suffers when Bernard Haitink occasionally pushes things along a bit too fast.

But in general this is a most cherishable set, and not just for those who have had the chance of seeing the real thing in the theatre.

John Higgins

The lunatic fringe

PAPERBACKS

The Complete Beyond The Fringe, by Alan Bennett, Peter Cook, Jonathan Miller, Dudley Moore. Introduction by Michael Frayn. Editor Roger Wilmut (Methuen, £5.95)

In his postscript to these *Beyond the Fringe* sketches, Alan Bennett makes a wonderfully bad-tempered attack on Peter Cook and Jonathan Miller. They never gave him credit, he says, for writing the book for the show, and this reminds him of the way Joe Orton always ignored his debts to Kenneth Halliwell.

"No wonder Halliwell battered Orton's brains out," says Bennett. "There were times in those years 1961-64 when I felt like that myself. And I know Dudley Moore thought his own contribution was undervalued."

Dudley, himself, writes in his postscript that although the show was everything he ever wanted, he did sometimes feel mildly snooty and fairly futile.

"Oh dear," said Peter Cook, when I asked him about this. "My agent warned me in 1960 never to jeopardize my career by working with those three amateurs. In fact, I quote this in my own postscript to the book, where I also confess the immediate truth that after the show began I'd never had it so good, and I've never done better since — or even hoped to do better."

"But I'm not surprised Jonathan hasn't bothered to send his own postscript to the publishers. He never seemed very pleased with what he was doing."

"Oh yes I was," Jonathan told me. "I was too busy to write for the book, but I'm filled with admiration for how funny we were, and how we scrapped all revue conventions, like song-and-dance interruptions."

"We did nothing that was theatrically acceptable, and that's how I've worked ever since in theatre and opera. It's partly why I get so much shit, I suppose. But *Beyond the*

Fringe itself, where I first got my ideas, was absolutely adored by the critics."

I, myself, just thought it was a very funny show. It was more factious than witty, and never really satirical, but it was very funny because of its cast. I'm glad to be reminded of what they were like at the time, and how far we have progressed since the Lord Chamberlain was still censoring the theatre. "You must never address each other on the stage," he told Alan, Dudley, Peter and Jonathan, "as love."

I get the impression that today none of them would want to. Especially Alan Bennett, who says he is tired of the continual talk about *Beyond the Fringe* and satire. "It has left me," he says, "with a permanent distaste for having to explain myself."

He then explains himself in 1,500 words. And they are, of course, some of the most entertaining words in the whole book.

Kenneth Robinson

NEW PAPERBACKS

The Literary Editor's selection of interesting books published this week:

FICTION

An Insular Possession, by Timothy Mo (Picador, £3.95) Massive, complex historical fiction about foundation of Hong Kong seen through many eyes; Whitbread shortlist.
Fantomas, by Marcel Allain and Pierre Souvestre (Picador, £3.50) Enfantomastic cool chiller of 1911 Paris, written by magazine hacks, which hooked the intellectuals and the Man in the Metro with 31 sequels; introduction by John Ashbery.
Henrietta's War, by Joyce Denny (Penguin, £2.95) Chatty Adrienne Mole on the home front in small Devon seaside town during last war, then published serially, now republished.
Inverted World, by Christopher Priest (Gollancz, £3.50) Science fiction classic of mind-bending paradox.
Twenty Thousand Streets Under the Sky, by Patrick Hamilton (Hogarth, £5.95) Funny and moving trilogy of low-life love affairs in 30s Soho; introduction by Michael Holroyd.

NON-FICTION

All in a Day's Work, by Denny Danziger (Fontana, £3.50) Studs-Terkel-school interview with 50 people, from sales rep to Oxford don, talking indelicately about their jobs.
Charleston: Past and Present, by Quentin Bell, Angelica Garnett, Henrietta Garnett, and Richard Shone (Hogarth, £5.95) Illustrated celebration and official guide to the Sussex retreat and work-hive (restored and open) of the Bloomsbury Group.
Clive of India, by Mark Bence-Jones (Constable, £7.95) Definitive, judicious illustrated biography of the enigmatic founding father of the British Raj.
Dumas On Food, translated by Alan and Jane Davidson (Oxford, £5.95) Recipes and anecdotes from the famous *Grand Dictionnaire de Cuisine* by man who wanted to be remembered for his cookery, not three musketeers.
Henry VIII, by Jasper Ridley (Constable, £9.95) The latest life of the Renaissance Prince and old monster in his cut-throat world.

Scant fun for the boozers

ROCK RECORDS

Marillion: *Clutching at Straws* (EMI EMD 1002)
Neil Young and Crazy Horse: *Life* (Geffen WX 109)
Boy George: *Sold* (Virgin V2430)
Roy Orbison: *In Dreams: The Greatest Hits* (Virgin VGD 3514)

The interesting thing about Marillion, like Genesis before them, is how little tinkering with their "progressive" musical manifesto has been necessary in order to convert a cult following into the mass audience appeal capable of supporting them as a consistent chart singles act. *Clutching at Straws* continues to tread a fine line between the stodgy convoluted arrangements that distinguished their early work and the nearer topped and tailed songs which they have inclined towards latterly. The grandiose instrumentation remains an unfortunate constant, and even a racy little rocker like the recent hit "Incommunicado" suffers from that unpleasant generic synthesizer sound that was so popular in the mid-seventies.

For an album whose theme is boozing and boozers, there is scant impression of anyone having a good time; the intense sixth-form poetry of "Warm Wet Circles" rubs shoulders with the maudlin self-pity of "The Last Straw", while clumsy, portentous metaphors like "We're just sugar mice in the rain"



Cult following to mass appeal: Fish and Marillion, with an introverted new collection

abound. "White Russian", a song about the harassment of Jews in the USSR, casts a long shadow of paranoia over an otherwise introverted and droopy collection.

What on earth is Neil Young up to on *Life*? One minute he sounds like a mooning teenager leading his first garage band through a scrappy sub-"Satisfaction" riff on "Too Lonely" or the absurd "Prisoners of Rock n' Roll" the next he is bending his melancholy yell to the crunchy synth-rock of "Mid-cast Vacation", a war zone narrative redolent of a John le Carré novel. At least he has

avoided being sucked into that tedious American FM rock vortex that has claimed so many of his contemporaries from the sixties.

Boy George has bounced back from an early grave, and we all wish him well. *Sold* indicates a move away from the little pop market that spawned him, towards a marginally more mature rock audience, and boasts four unremarkable Lamont/Dozier compositions, and an enthusiastic vocal performance throughout.

Roy Orbison, who has not had a hit since the Sixties, has

Rossini struts out on to the streets

JAZZ RECORDS

Mike Westbrook
Westbrook-Rossini (Hat Art 2040, 2 discs)
Kenny Burrell Generation (Blue Note BT 85137)

Conceived in response to a Swiss theatre group's request for music to accompany a street festival in Lausanne on the theme of William Tell, *Westbrook-Rossini* fits beautifully into the slow, steady progress of Mike Westbrook's career.

We would describe him as the most original thinker in British jazz, were it not that his genius has carried him far beyond his early inspiration in the jazz of Ellington and Mingus: in a sense, he has been working his way out of jazz for the last 15 years.

Like his masterpiece, *The Cortège*, and his settings of William Blake's poetry, these arrangements of Rossini, captured at a performance in Zurich last year, could not exist without the methodology of jazz, or its fondness for expanded instrumental techniques. But, thanks not least to what Westbrook coolly describes as "a slightly unusual line-up", the sound is more often that of a ragged-trousered, full-blooded street band from some Sicilian mountain village.

The septet making its recording debut here features a soprano saxophone, an alto saxophone, a trombone, a



THE TIMES ARTS DIARY

Ripping yarns

Dashing for freedom across the desert sands of North Africa, Michael Richard West de Wend Fenton (Beau West to his chums), old Etonian, ex-Guardsman and Foreign Legionnaire, made his escape. It was 1933 and two years later, Rose de Wend Fenton was born. A love of theatre must run in the family. Rose is the co-founder and director of the London International Festival of Theatre which begins its fourth season on July 13.

An impulse had led de Wend Fenton to join the Foreign Legion, but the life of adventure soon palled and he dreamt of escape. His daredevil dash for liberty ended when he was smuggled out of Africa by boat. And so it was that Rose, now 30, and then LIFT were able to be born.

Rupee rock

It could be the biggest thing since Punk: Punjabi Pop and the Bhangra Beat is the name of both an ICA festival (from June 30-July 4) and a new wave of ethnic music. The ICA event is the first time Punjabi pop's top groups will have played to a primarily non-Asian audience. Meanwhile, Trevor Horn, the man who produced Frankie Goes to Hollywood, has been showing interest in working with some of the groups.

Law school

Jeffrey Archer has not only been taking counsel from Gilbert Gray, QC, on the accuracy of his forthcoming courtroom drama, *Beyond a Reasonable Doubt*. He has also been getting technical advice on his first play from



Archer and Michael Rudman

Michael Rudman, the National Theatre director. Rudman and Archer, it seems, are chums from Oxford days. "It was I who recommended Warren Mitchell to star in [Rudman's production of] *Death of a Salesman* at the National," says Archer, "because I had seen him play it in Australia."

One of the highlights of this year's *Avignon Festival* will be a specially choreographed dance between a pig and a horse — a real pig and a real horse. The latter is said to rival the late Fred Astaire as the greatest boogie of them all.

Water works

RSC golden boy and director of *Les Liaisons Dangereuses*, Howard Davies, is to cross the water and direct *Ca on a Hot Tin Roof* for the National Theatre, probably next spring. Although Davies will remain an RSC Associate Director, the smart money has it that *Tin Roof* will only be the first of a "travelling" Davies' productions, and that he may be the first of a raft of new directors signed up when Richard Eyre takes over the National helm next year.

Peter Freedman

THE WEEK AHEAD



FILMS

BOND AND GAGS: Timothy Dalton follows in distinguished footsteps when he assumes the mantle of James Bond in *The Living Daylights* (PG), the 17th film featuring Ian Fleming's character. The series has now been running for 25 years, though many of the ingredients remain unaltered: guns, girls (principally Maryam D'Abo), and a globe-trotting plot of East-West intrigue. John Glen directs his fourth Bond in a row. Odeon Leicester Square (01-930 6111), Odeon Marble Arch (01-928 2100), from Tuesday.



DANCE

SCREEN TEST: Darshan Singh Bhuller has an unusual role in the London premiere of Robert Cohan's *Video-life* for London Contemporary Dance Theatre: he operates the video camera sending pictures of his fellow dancers to screens beside the stage. In the same programme, Cohan's *Class* will find him more strenuously engaged, and there is *Fabrications*, a new work by Robert North based on costume designs by Elizabeth Emanuel. Queen Elizabeth Hall, South Bank, London SE1 (01-928 3191), Tuesday-July 4.



GALLERIES

Jacob Epstein (1880-1959) was the first British artist to attract the full fury of anti-modern art sentiment. His large canvases were infamous for their sensuality, sexual explicitness and animal energy, although he also made small, vivacious portraits of notables such as Einstein, Shaw and Vaughan Williams. The full range of Epstein's work is well represented in a major retrospective at Whitechapel Art Gallery, Whitechapel High Street, London E1 (01-377 0107), Tues-Sun 11am-5pm, 12.50, from Friday until September 13.



RADIO

RACING PORTIA: Hannah Gordon has in her time played many parts, from situation comedy to costume drama and West End thrillers, as well as hosting television gardening programmes. Nor has she neglected the classics, having played Desdemona at the Chichester Festival opposite Topol's Othello. She returns to Shakespeare as Portia in *The Merchant of Venice*. David Suchet is Shylock and other leading parts are taken by Peter Jeffrey, Antonio Lesser and Clifford Rose. Radio 3, Friday, 7.30-9.45pm.



CONCERTS

SEASONED: Iain Hamilton's 65th birthday is celebrated today with the world premiere of his *Summer Fields*, given by the London Choral under David Coleman. This is Hamilton's setting of recently published poems by John Clare (1793-1864) which evokes the heavy opulence of late summer. "There lies a sultry lusciousness around..." Hamilton says his music was inspired by childhood memories of the now-urbanized Mill Hill area of North London. St John's, Smith Square, London SW1 (01-222 1061), 7.30pm.



OPERA

SHADOW PLAY: Gwyneth Jones heads an international cast in the Royal Opera's revival of Richard Strauss's *Die Frau ohne Schatten*. Christoph von Dohányi conducts Jones, Helga Dernesch, Philip Joll and Siegmund Nimsgern in performances on Tuesday and Friday at 8.30pm. Meanwhile, *Il barbiere di Siviglia* continues tonight, Thursday and July 4, at 7.30pm and *La Bohème* plays on Monday and Wednesday at 7.30pm. Royal Opera House, Covent Garden, London WC2 (01-240-1066).

THEATRE OPENINGS

BODYCOUNT: Tina Marlin in Les Smith's one-woman show about a survivor of the My Lai massacre in Vietnam. Old Red Lion, St. John Street, London EC1 (01-837 7816), Opens Tues.

LITTLE FOOTSTEPS: Comedy by Ted Tally about a couple in their mid-30s expecting their first child. Robin Saphra directs. Tabard, 2 Bath Road, London W4 (01-895 6035), Opens Wed.

THE MILL ON THE FLOSS: Robin Brown's adaptation of the novel by George Eliot. Directed by Jonathan Holloway. Gate Theatre Club, Notting Hill (01-229 0708), Opens Mon.

NO MAN'S LAND: Bernard Wright as Wilfred Owen in a one-man show about the World War I poet, directed by Philip Groot. Latchmere, 503 Battersea Park Road, London SW11 (01-228 2820), Opens Mon.

PROMETHEUS IN EVIN: Performed in Farsi (synopsis available), Iraj Jannati Aie's play about a poet threatened with the firing squad unless he makes a public confession of crimes against the state. Royal Court Theatre Upstairs (01-730 2554), Opens Thurs.

SERIOUS MONEY: Limited run West End transfer for Caryl Churchill's comedy, with songs, about present-day practice in the City. Directed by Max Stafford-Clark. Wyndham's (01-836 3026), Previews from Wed.

THAT SUMMER: New play by David Edgar, directed by Michael Attenborough. An Oxford don and his wife invite two teenage daughters of Welsh miners to join them on holiday at the height of the 1984 strike. Hampstead (01-722 9301), Previews from Thurs.

OUT OF TOWN

LEADS: Flagg and Bandages: Award-winning Theatre in Education production set in the St Sebastopol hospital at the end of the Crimean War. Playhouse (0522 44211), Opens Tues, until July 4.

STRATFORD-UPON-AVON: *Twelfth Night*: Hamlet Walter, Anthony Sher (Malvolio), directed by Bill Alexander in a new RSC production. Royal Shakespeare Theatre (0768 255623), Previews Thurs, Fri, July 4, 6, Opens July 7, in repertory.

CONCERTS

ORPHEUS'S DEBUT: The conductorless American Orpheus Orchestra makes its UK debut with Haydn's Symphony No 63 "La Roxelane" and Stravinsky's *Pulcinella* Suite. Gidon Kremer (violin solo) in little-known Schubert dances, a Rondo D438 and a Polonaise D580. Barbican Centre, Silk Street, London EC2 (01-628 8795, cc 01-638 8891), Today, 7.45pm.

BERNSTEIN: CONCERTS-EDOUARD: The Concertgebouw Orchestra of Amsterdam is conducted by Leonard Bernstein in Mahler's Symphony No 4, Schubert's Symphony No 5. Barbican Centre. Tomorrow, 3.30pm.

SIEGFRIED/SIEGFRIED: Siegfried Jerusalem is accompanied by Siegfried Mauser in Schumann's *Liederkreis*, live leader from Mahler's *Das Knaben Wunderhorn*. Wigmore Hall, 36 Wigmore Street, London W1 (01-935 2141), tomorrow, 7pm.

PIANO QUARTET: Mark Bebbington (piano) and the Mistry Quartet play respectively Franck's *Prelude*, Choral and Fugue and a Liszt group, and Berg's *Quartet Op 3* and Mendelssohn's *Quartet Op 13*. Wigmore Hall, Tues, 7.30pm.

GERSHWIN CAKE: Michael Tilson Thomas conducts the LSO in Gershwin's *Let 'Em Eat Cake Overture*, *Lullaby*, Piano Concerto (soloist, Peter Donohoe) and *Well's Seven Deadly Sins* (Julia Migenes, soprano). Barbican Centre. Thurs, 7.45pm.

WATSON/ECO: The ECO is conducted by Ian Watson in

Bach's Brandenburg Concerto No 3, Mozart's Clarinet Concerto (Jack Brymer, soloist) and Vivaldi's *Four Seasons* (Lorraine McAslan, violin). Barbican Centre. Fri, 7.45pm.

FILMS

PALTOQUET (15): Playful thriller from director Michel Deville, with Jeanne Moreau, Michel Piccoli, Fanny Ardant as a cockeyed couple who try setting up as a family with a stolen baby. Screen on the Green (01-228 3520), Cannon Haymarket (01-839 1527), Cannon Tottenham Court Road (01-836 9148), from Fri.

RAISING ARIZONA (15): Crazy black comedy from Joel and Ethan Coen, with Nicolas Cage and Holly Hunter as a cockeyed couple who try setting up as a family with a stolen baby. Screen on the Green (01-228 3520), Cannon Haymarket (01-839 1527), Cannon Tottenham Court Road (01-836 9148), from Fri.

SOMETHING WILD (18): An insatiable lady takes a yuppy for a lover, then her ex-con husband intervenes. Jonathan Demme's offbeat thriller stars Jeff Daniels, Melanie Griffith, Ray Liotta. Leicester Square Theatre (01-930 5252), from Fri.

SELECTED

RADIO DAYS (PG): Woody Allen's delicate tapestry of Brooklyn families, broadcasters and Manhattanites at the end of the 1930s. With Mia Farrow, Dianne Wiest, Seth Green. Odeon Haymarket (01-930 2738).

THE SECRET OF MY SUCCESS (PG): Michael J. Fox climbs Big Apple's business ladder with the help of deception and Helen Slater. Empire (01-437 1234).

PHOTOGRAPHY

SPORTING CHANCE: The quite remarkable sports photographs by Eamonn McCabe are here presented alongside some of his more personal work. From today. Royal Photographic Society, Museum Street, Bath (0225 82841), until July 23.

ROCK

PETER GABRIEL: One of rock's most literate writers and thoughtful performers. Tonight and tomorrow, Earls Court Exhibition Centre. London SW5 (01-481 0044), Tue, Wed and Thurs, NEC, Birmingham (021 7804133).

GENESIS: Collins, Banks and Rutherford establish a new record for consecutive appearances at Wembley Stadium. Tomorrow, Roundhay Park, Leeds (01-743 1414), Wed for four nights, Wembley Stadium, Middlesex (01-902 1234).

LUTHER VANDROSS: Vandross remains the most likely heir to the throne left vacant since the death of Marvin Gaye. Tomorrow, NEC, Birmingham (021 7804133), Tue for seven nights (excluding Fri), Wembley Arena, Middlesex (01-902 1234).

JAZZ

WEEKEND: Tonight, Graham Collier's orchestra; tomorrow, noon to midnight, trad takes over, including the Temperance Seven and Harry Gold's Pieces of Eight. The Maltings, Farnham, Surrey (0252 726234).

SHEFFIELD JAZZ: Stan Tracey's Hexad (Leadmill, tomorrow), Tania Maria's Brazilian songs (Octagon, Mon) and the eclectic blues-based repertoire of Taj Mahal (Leadmill, Tues).

LEADMILL: Sheffield (0742 754500) and Octagon, Sheffield (0742 753300).

HARLEM TO HAMPSHIRE: George Melly, Midnight Folies and Humphrey Lyttelton (with Helen Shapiro) hold forth. Tomorrow (from 6pm).

KENWOOD HOUSE, HAMPSHIRE: Heath, London NW3 (01-928 3191, cc 01-928 8800).

SARAH VAUGHAN: A real event - the Divine One sings Gershwin with the BBC Scottish Orchestra. Mon, Theatre Royal, Glasgow (041 3311234).

LEE KONITZ: Last year at Scott's, this veteran alto saxophonist sounded like one of the most creative improvisers alive. Mon-Sat, Ronnie Scott's Club, 47 Frith Street, London W1 (01-439 0747).

BRACKNELL FESTIVAL: For modernists, simply the best of all festivals. Starts with a promising-sounding evening devoted to the Lounge Lizards, the Andy Sheppard Band and Happy End. Fri, South Hill Park Arts Centre, Bracknell, Berks (0344 484123).

TELEVISION

THE LITTLE TRAIN TO LYNTON: Although it closed in 1935, the narrow-gauge railway from Lynton to Barnstaple in Devon is still fondly remembered. Its magic is evoked by former passengers and archive film. BBC2, Mon, 10.10.30pm and Wed, 10.25.10.55pm.

THE RKO STORY: Start of a six-part history of the Hollywood film studio. Narrated by Ed (Lou Grant) Asner. BBC2, Fri, 9.30-10.35pm.

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NATIONAL BALLET OF CANADA: Glen Tetley's *Alice*, a new interpretation of Lewis Carroll's stories to music by David del Tredici, comes to London in a double bill with Bolshoi's lyrical *Serenade* to Tchaikovsky's music. London Coliseum (01-836 3161), Tues to July 4.

RADLER'S WELLS ROYAL BALLET: The season on the Isle of Wight continues with *Coppelia* today, *Swan Lake* Mon-Thurs then de Valois' *Checkmate* with Bimley's *Flowers of the Forest* and MacMillan's *Elle Sympocritae* (Fri and July 4).

THE BIG TOP: Osborne House (box office at Quay Arts Centre, Newport) (0983 529896).

NORTHERN BALLET THEATRE: Two performances of *A Midsummer Night's Dream* today at the Alhambra, Bradford (0274 752000). Then *Coppelia* Tuesday to July 4 at the Derby Playhouse (032363275).

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ROYAL SCOTTISH ACADEMY: Double bill of Mozart's *The Impresario* and Puccini's *Gianni Schicchi* on Mon, Tues, Wed and Thurs, at 7.15pm. Students of the opera class will be conducted by Philip Ledger. Royal Scottish Academy of Music and Drama, Nelson Mandela Place, Glasgow (041 3324101).

CONCEPTUAL CLOTHING: 23 artists explore some of the functions and hidden connotations of dress. City Museum and Art Gallery, Hanley, Stoke-on-Trent (0762 202173), Mon-Sat, 10.30am-5pm, Sun 2-5pm, free, until July 28. From today.

FILMS ON TV

FROM THE LIFE OF THE MARIONETTE (1980): Black piece from Ingmar Bergman about a German businessman driven by a mental breakdown to murder a prostitute. Channel 4, today, 12.40-2.30am.

MONKEY BUSINESS (1952): Cary Grant and Ginger Rogers in Howard Hawks's madcap comedy which gave an early chance to Marilyn Monroe. Channel 4, tomorrow, 10.15pm-12.05am.

SECRET PEOPLE (1951): Thorold Dickinson's sensitively handled political thriller about anarchists at large in London during the 1930s. With Valentine Cortese and a young Audrey Hepburn. Channel 4, Wed, 2.35-4.20pm.

VIVIAN BLACKETT: Pictures done during the artist's six-month residency at the gallery. The National Gallery, Trafalgar Square, London WC2 (01-839 3321), Mon-Sat 10am-6pm, Sun 2-6pm, free, until July 31. From Wednesday.

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CHOICE

Peter Waymark



superpunctilious Valerie and deliberately disorganized Johnny. He is a fisherman and when, in his absence at the river bank, a customer tries to find his way round the chaos of the shop she can only reply: "The index has gone fishing". Pleasantly filmed in a rural Miss Marpleland, complete with a bumbling vicar, the play does not aspire to any great heights but it has an emotional truth. It might have had even more by being cast with less attractive actors than Prunella Scales and Paul Freeman. It is hard to believe that either of them would have stayed unattached for so long.

P.W.

5 Sarab. The final part of the drama serial

1.00 Pakistan: 15.00
Bandung Film: (t) 11.00
Cartoon Carnival
11.30 The Owl Service
Episode Six: (r)
12.00 Network 7: Current
affairs magazine for
young adults. The
programme includes
items on young
parenthood and baby
battering; the new
YTS directives; the
Tour de France; Prince
computers; and the
May Ball.

2.00 The Pocket Money
Programme. Financial
advice for the young
adults.
2.30 Film: Once Upon a
Time (b/w) (1944) starrin
Gary Grant. Fantasy
tale about a Broadway
producer, struggling for
cash, who sees his
theatre's salvation in a
dancing caterpillar that
belongs to a small
boy. Directed by
Alexander Hall.

4.10 Film: The Knockout
(b/w) (1914) starring
Charles Chaplin.
Comedy about a boxing
comic. Directed by
Charles Evers.

4.35 Jack Lewis' Year. A
portrait of Jack Lewis,
60-year-old Sussex
coyman.

5.30 News summary and
weather followed by
Hot To Handle? The
second of two
programmes on the
subject of nuclear po
wer.

6.15 Rowing: Power Sprint
1987. The Leyland
Power Sprint.

7.00 Challenge to Sport.
The joys of croquet.

7.15 The Struggles for
Poland. Part four of a
ten-programme
series covers the part
of the Second World
War. (Oracle)

8.15 Men and Music: The
Classical Vienna. Th
fourth programme in
the series exploring
cultural tradition of
Vienna.

9.15 Penetration Blue.
Execlude four (r) (Or
acle)

10.15 Film: Monkey
Business (b/w) (195
starring Gary Grant
and Ginger Rogers.
Comedy about a
scientist who is
developing a drug to
halt the ageing pro
cess. Directed by
Howard Hawks.

12.05 Twilight Zone (b/w)
film star is given a
ring which enables h
to see images of h
is reality and fantas
y.
Ends at 12.30.

1.15 Violin and Viola

Saint-Saëns (Sonata
 1), Franck (Sonata in
 12.15 Early Music: Camille
 Saint-Saëns: Three-
 Opus three-movements
 from Das klagen-
 Lied: New Philadelphia
 Orchestra and Chorus
 Radio France
 1.15 Wind Solists of the
 Chamber Orchestra of
 Leipzig: Hummel
 (Pavane in E flat, No.
 3), Schubert (Wind
 Quintet), Dvorak
 (Symphonic Concerto
 for Clarinet in B flat,
 Op. 17)
 2.05 Piano recital: Maurizio
 Pollini plays Schubert
 Allegretto in E minor Op.
 33, Debussis L'après-
 midi d'un faune, and
 Chopin works
 including Two Nocturnes
 3.40 Bourne-mouth: Susan
 Susan Kessler (mezzo-
 soprano) sings Schumann
 (Serenade), Brahms
 (Lied), and Strauss
 (Symphony No. 4)
 4.35 The New String Quartet
 Mozart (Quartet in
 C K155), Schmitt (Quartet
 in memoriam Igor
 Stravinsky), Hartmann
 (Symphony No. 1)
 5.30 In Crisis in the Mirror:
 interview by Doug Tom
 into the theatre of
 Pirandello.
 6.30 Fritz Kreisler: recored

Radio 4
 and her long wait
 operation (7)
 3.30 Origins: The
 development of civil

4.00 NEWS:
Program
CDD

4.30 **The Natural History** of the
Garamme. **Featuring** **James**
presents a feature
Daphne Sheldrake
played surrogate
to a baby elephant

5.00 **News: Travel**

5.05 **Journey to the Center**
the Earth. **With**
when Nick and Rod
Crane cycled 3000
'From Riots to the
of the World' (First
documentaries)

5.00 **News**

6.15 **Feedback.** **Christie**
Dunckley with
commentators about
BBC and its

6.30 **Instruments of the**
The life story of
the BBC Symphony
Orchestra (2)
The importance of
being
heard (3)

7.00 **East Lynm by**
Wendy St.
written by
by
Leach, Mair

Radio 2: 639kHz/433m; 809kHz/433m
261m: VHF 97.3; Capital: 154.0

David Collings (S) Bookshelf. With Susi Hill
8.00
8.30 A Word in Edgewood
Brian Redhead in conversation with
Guy Davidson, Dr. John
Opperheimer and
Page
9.00 News; George
Gershwin. Part three
Andrew Cooke's song
(Broadway and Cal
Hell)
9.30 Law in Action. With
Ewen 9.55 West
Travel
10.00 News
10.15 Victoria (S) Access
With Anna Maclellan
John Vickers, a
Daneman as Prince
The narrator: Rob
Powell (r)
11.00 Seeds of Faith (S)
11.15 Reality. Weekend
Soldiers. Feature a
young man who joined
the Territorial Army
12.00 News; Weather
12.05 ~~WHF~~ (available in Eng
South Wales only) as
except 7.00-8.00 Open
University, 4.00-5.00 C
4.00 Dealing with Drugs
Education Masters 5.00
Community 5.30 Get by

Regional TV: on facing page

1.00 News
1.10 Any Questions? With
Ronald Telford *James*

FREQUENCIES: Radio 1:1053kHz/285m;1089kHz/275m; Radio 2: 693kHz/433m; 909kHz/330m; Radio 3: 1218kHz/247m;Linn-99: 92.5/205; Radio 4: 200kHz/1500m: VHF-92-95; LBC:1152kHz/261m: VHF 97.3; Capital: 1548kHz/194m: VHF95.8; BBC Radio.Vnn-99: 1458kHz/206m: VHF 94.9; World Service: MF 648kHz/463m.

How US giant fell to British dollar

Continued from page 1

Whatever they thought of Mr Sorrell as a human being, the Saatchi brothers were sufficiently impressed with their former financial wizard to back him with more than £1 million of their own money when he inevitably departed for a career on his own.

Mr Sorrell's expertise might accurately be described as financial engineering. He trod a time-worn City route by discovering a small, cheap company which was going nowhere in particular on its own and whose board was therefore ready to listen to the persuasive caller whose track record was glamorous and whose ambition seemed to have few limits. The vehicle chosen by Mr Sorrell and Mr Preston Rabi, his stockbroker partner (who recently left to do his own thing), was Wire and Plastic Products. It conducted an engineering business supplying equipment to supermarkets. For Messrs Sorrell and Rabi, the prime asset was the stock market listing of the group's shares. As many entrepreneurs have proved before them, even if one has little cash, endless deals are possible if investors believe in the long-term worth of one's shares.

The partners bought a 27 per cent share in the company at 38p per share, renamed it WPP group and set off to build the group fast and furiously. Mr Sorrell's arrival was enough to add some glitter to WPP shares. Their sharp rise in value transformed WPP shares into potent takeover currency. But it took the skill of Mr Sorrell to identify takeover targets and persuade the creative people who ran them that they would do better throwing in their lot with a man whose forte was finance.

His chosen route to expansion was via the highly-fractured business loosely described as marketing services — all connected with media and advertising such as sales promotion, design and graphics. Mr Sorrell's role was to devise a formula known as the "earn-out" acquisition, where companies are bought for a down-payment with the balance linked to profits and spread over three years or so. This ensures that the key assets, people, remain motivated and stay with their business.

Two years and 16 takeovers later, WPP shares had risen from 38p to a staggering £11. Its stock market worth had surged from £1.4 million to more than £135 million. Mr Sorrell was ready for much bigger things.

Headquarters for the transformation of WPP was typically not in the West End locations favoured by so many media companies. Mr Sorrell is driven to work at Lincoln's Inn, one of the four Inns of Court in London where lawyers have their offices, in a BMW and devotes most of the week to solid work.

JWT ranks as one of the world's best known advertising companies. The agency

Lighting up times past for pipe smokers



Ivor Southorn's ancestors were making clay pipes before Sir Walter Raleigh brought the noxious weed from the New World in 1585. In those days before the canonization of St Bruno, the peasant smoked grasses, dock leaves, dandelion or herbs (Alan Hamilton writes). More recently around 1823, the Southorns perfected the churchwarden, 25 ins long to take full advantage of the cooling and moisture-absorbing properties of local china clay, and so named because the churchwarden rather than the common labourer was the only

man likely to own the high-backed fireside chair in which it could be properly supported and smoked. Within living memory, in the days before the Second World War, his family's pipe factory at Broseley, Shropshire, employed 90 people turning out churchwardens for the gentry and stout cutlers that would fit in a working man's waistcoat pocket. That was when a Shropshire lad would walk into his public house and be served a clay, a twist of shag, a box of matches and a pint of mild, all for sixpence. The knowing steeped

the pipe in beer for 15 minutes for flavour. But England's premier clay pipe factory has been silent since 1952, business finally ended by the war and Sir Stafford Cripps, Attlee's iron chancellor, who in the days of postwar austerity slapped 33 per cent purchase tax on pipes and a punishing import tax on tobacco. By the closure, the workforce was down to nine part-timers, and churchwardens had been made since 1938. Almost their last production was an ornate coiled pipe for King Farouk of Egypt, but it was never delivered; on the day of

dispatch to Cairo, the obese monarch was deposed. The factory has lain unworked and untouched since, a dusty time capsule. Now the Ironbridge Gorge Museum at nearby Telford is negotiating with Mr Southorn to buy the 200-year building and preserve evidence of its ancient craft. Mr Southorn posed in the workshop where he learned the art of pipe making, with considerable forbearance; he is an avid non-smoker.

(Photograph: Philip Dunn)

Howe in call for peace initiative

By Nicholas Wood Political Reporter

Britain yesterday sharply stepped up pressure for an international conference to revive the moribund Middle East peace process.

Sir Geoffrey Howe, the Foreign Secretary, said such a conference would offer a "major step forward" in resolving the Arab-Israeli conflict.

The Prime Minister would raise the matter next month in meetings with President Reagan in Washington and King Hussein of Jordan in London.

Sir Geoffrey, opening the foreign affairs debate on the Queen's Speech, said the Government was "deeply concerned" at the lack of progress towards a settlement.

"We and our European partners firmly support the principle of an international conference."

"It would help to enhance Israel's security. It would help to lead to justice for the Palestinian people."

Sir Geoffrey's strong endorsement of a conference bringing together the five permanent members of the UN Security Council and the Middle East powers involved, followed a meeting on Tuesday between Mrs Thatcher and Mr Shimon Peres, the Israeli Foreign Minister, which led to joint backing for a conference.

Foreign Office sources indicated yesterday that Sir Geoffrey's remarks in the Commons were intended to reinforce that message, sending key signals to moderate Arab states such as Egypt, Jordan and Saudi Arabia.

The Foreign Secretary's remarks were also directed at Washington, which has been lukewarm over the prospect of a conference for fear it would be exploited by the Soviet Union.

The Government believes that the conference should be chaired by Senator Peres, Mr Cilliar, UN Secretary-General, and should include the United States, the Soviet Union, Britain, France and China, along with the parties involved, notably Israel, Syria, Jordan, Egypt, and Lebanon. The Palestinians should be represented, not necessarily through the PLO. Sir Geoffrey also underlined Britain's support for the double zero arms control option, saying that Mr Mikhail Gorbachev's impact on Soviet policy was enhancing the prospect of an East-West thaw.

But Britain was determined to maintain a vigilant posture over security.

Mr Denis Healey, the Shadow Foreign Secretary, who is stepping down after nearly 30 years at the pinnacle of his party, said that the prospect of an agreement on intermediate and shorter range nuclear weapons and a subsequent 50 per cent cut in strategic forces rendered Nato's strategy of flexible response "clearly untenable".

East-West relations, page 4

PART 2
SATURDAY JUNE 27
Executive Editor
Kenneth Fleet
STOCK MARKET
FT 30 Share
1790 (+15)
FT-SE 100
2291 (+14)
Bargains
55708 (+4250)
USM (Datastream)
193.81 (+1.14)
THE POUND
US dollar
161.40 (+0.20)
W German mark
2.943 (+0.00)
Trade-weighted
72.2 (same)
Rush for Caradon shares
The public...
likely to be...
day, and...
to start on...

Reagan 'no' to budget
Mr Howard...
House...
budget...
Congress...
acceptable...
Reagan...
tax...
inadequate...
The...
that they...
too many...
enough...
sional...
he added...
staff...
sional...
reach a...

£2m cash call
Lauda...
reformation...
just over...
Doris...
14p

SUMMARY
STOCK MARKETS
New York
Dow Jones
Tokyo
Nikkei
Hong Kong
Hang Seng
Amsterdam
Euronext
Frankfurt
DAX
Brussels
Euronext
Paris
CAC 40
London
FT 100
Recent issues
Closing prices
Page 24

The Times Crossword Puzzle No 17,394
ACROSS
1 Body of writings in an Oxford or Cambridge college (6).
5 Express worker is lying (8).
9 French revolutionary coming to honourable end in the long run (8).
10 Tradesman sounds comparatively bloated (6).
11 Force to receive thousands in trade (8).
12 Coarse material makes us belch round there in France (6).
13 In the island note how to increase the bird population (8).
15 Low point of a heavenly body (4).
17 Bugle heard by Adam (4).
19 Duke of a royal house came to a vicious end (8).
20 Flower rated gold coming first (6).
21 Repository of wealth, like an old city, among three (8).
22 Early landfall of a deserter from the gunners' (6).
23 Hung about to chop one old tree (8).
24 Esteems what may be paid without expense (8).
25 Most senior departmental head in processing of steel (6).
DOWN
2 What's sung by full chorus or a threesome? Nothing in it (8).
3 Fruit over the sea — an apple (8).
4 Like football odds on Henry holding Williams (9).
5 Relations on route for the south-east (10-5).
6 Many on a Yorkshire river binge (7).
7 Award of honour to colonel captured by a Kenish rebel (8).
8 Go and fish in the old way (8).
10 Fruit from a green tin perhaps (9).
15 If clueless, one might be trapped in this monster's lair (8).
16 Surpass, though being far from in form (8).
17 Debated maybe about second support for one retired (8).
18 You are said to be imprisoned by party head — stern, grim character (8).
19 Weather conditions etc unsettled round S American capital (7).
Solution to Puzzle No 17,388
BENIGHTED AISLE
OPENAIR NETSUKE
TORNADO BACKLOT
SOLID TROUBLE
END LONGSIGHTED
KARMA CARUM TAW
BEDFELLOW RUNIN
JEREMY TABLOID
GOREGICULAR
ROSES VEHICULAR
Solution to Puzzle No 17,393
SCAPED CHASTE
BENIGHTED AISLE
OPENAIR NETSUKE
TORNADO BACKLOT
SOLID TROUBLE
END LONGSIGHTED
KARMA CARUM TAW
BEDFELLOW RUNIN
JEREMY TABLOID
GOREGICULAR
ROSES VEHICULAR
Concise crossword, page 21

WEATHER
General situation: Most areas will have a cloudy day with some rain or drizzle, with the heaviest and most persistent rain being in the south and west. Some inland parts of the east may have brighter intervals, while northern parts of Scotland will stay mostly dry with bright or sunny intervals and perhaps an occasional shower. Outlook for Sunday and Monday: Some rain or drizzle at first, especially in the north and west, becoming drier, brighter and warmer in the south.
ABROAD
MIDDAY: c. cloud; d. drizzle; f. fog; lg. log; r. rain; s. sun; w. wind; x. snow; y. shower.
AROUND BRITAIN
Sun Rain Max
1.2 1.5 1.8 1.9 2.1 2.2 2.3 2.4 2.5 2.6 2.7 2.8 2.9 3.0 3.1 3.2 3.3 3.4 3.5 3.6 3.7 3.8 3.9 4.0 4.1 4.2 4.3 4.4 4.5 4.6 4.7 4.8 4.9 5.0 5.1 5.2 5.3 5.4 5.5 5.6 5.7 5.8 5.9 6.0 6.1 6.2 6.3 6.4 6.5 6.6 6.7 6.8 6.9 7.0 7.1 7.2 7.3 7.4 7.5 7.6 7.7 7.8 7.9 8.0 8.1 8.2 8.3 8.4 8.5 8.6 8.7 8.8 8.9 9.0 9.1 9.2 9.3 9.4 9.5 9.6 9.7 9.8 9.9 10.0 10.1 10.2 10.3 10.4 10.5 10.6 10.7 10.8 10.9 11.0 11.1 11.2 11.3 11.4 11.5 11.6 11.7 11.8 11.9 12.0 12.1 12.2 12.3 12.4 12.5 12.6 12.7 12.8 12.9 13.0 13.1 13.2 13.3 13.4 13.5 13.6 13.7 13.8 13.9 14.0 14.1 14.2 14.3 14.4 14.5 14.6 14.7 14.8 14.9 15.0 15.1 15.2 15.3 15.4 15.5 15.6 15.7 15.8 15.9 16.0 16.1 16.2 16.3 16.4 16.5 16.6 16.7 16.8 16.9 17.0 17.1 17.2 17.3 17.4 17.5 17.6 17.7 17.8 17.9 18.0 18.1 18.2 18.3 18.4 18.5 18.6 18.7 18.8 18.9 19.0 19.1 19.2 19.3 19.4 19.5 19.6 19.7 19.8 19.9 20.0 20.1 20.2 20.3 20.4 20.5 20.6 20.7 20.8 20.9 21.0 21.1 21.2 21.3 21.4 21.5 21.6 21.7 21.8 21.9 22.0 22.1 22.2 22.3 22.4 22.5 22.6 22.7 22.8 22.9 23.0 23.1 23.2 23.3 23.4 23.5 23.6 23.7 23.8 23.9 24.0 24.1 24.2 24.3 24.4 24.5 24.6 24.7 24.8 24.9 25.0 25.1 25.2 25.3 25.4 25.5 25.6 25.7 25.8 25.9 26.0 26.1 26.2 26.3 26.4 26.5 26.6 26.7 26.8 26.9 27.0 27.1 27.2 27.3 27.4 27.5 27.6 27.7 27.8 27.9 28.0 28.1 28.2 28.3 28.4 28.5 28.6 28.7 28.8 28.9 29.0 29.1 29.2 29.3 29.4 29.5 29.6 29.7 29.8 29.9 30.0 30.1 30.2 30.3 30.4 30.5 30.6 30.7 30.8 30.9 31.0 31.1 31.2 31.3 31.4 31.5 31.6 31.7 31.8 31.9 32.0 32.1 32.2 32.3 32.4 32.5 32.6 32.7 32.8 32.9 33.0 33.1 33.2 33.3 33.4 33.5 33.6 33.7 33.8 33.9 34.0 34.1 34.2 34.3 34.4 34.5 34.6 34.7 34.8 34.9 35.0 35.1 35.2 35.3 35.4 35.5 35.6 35.7 35.8 35.9 36.0 36.1 36.2 36.3 36.4 36.5 36.6 36.7 36.8 36.9 37.0 37.1 37.2 37.3 37.4 37.5 37.6 37.7 37.8 37.9 38.0 38.1 38.2 38.3 38.4 38.5 38.6 38.7 38.8 38.9 39.0 39.1 39.2 39.3 39.4 39.5 39.6 39.7 39.8 39.9 40.0 40.1 40.2 40.3 40.4 40.5 40.6 40.7 40.8 40.9 41.0 41.1 41.2 41.3 41.4 41.5 41.6 41.7 41.8 41.9 42.0 42.1 42.2 42.3 42.4 42.5 42.6 42.7 42.8 42.9 43.0 43.1 43.2 43.3 43.4 43.5 43.6 43.7 43.8 43.9 44.0 44.1 44.2 44.3 44.4 44.5 44.6 44.7 44.8 44.9 45.0 45.1 45.2 45.3 45.4 45.5 45.6 45.7 45.8 45.9 46.0 46.1 46.2 46.3 46.4 46.5 46.6 46.7 46.8 46.9 47.0 47.1 47.2 47.3 47.4 47.5 47.6 47.7 47.8 47.9 48.0 48.1 48.2 48.3 48.4 48.5 48.6 48.7 48.8 48.9 49.0 49.1 49.2 49.3 49.4 49.5 49.6 49.7 49.8 49.9 50.0 50.1 50.2 50.3 50.4 50.5 50.6 50.7 50.8 50.9 51.0 51.1 51.2 51.3 51.4 51.5 51.6 51.7 51.8 51.9 52.0 52.1 52.2 52.3 52.4 52.5 52.6 52.7 52.8 52.9 53.0 53.1 53.2 53.3 53.4 53.5 53.6 53.7 53.8 53.9 54.0 54.1 54.2 54.3 54.4 54.5 54.6 54.7 54.8 54.9 55.0 55.1 55.2 55.3 55.4 55.5 55.6 55.7 55.8 55.9 56.0 56.1 56.2 56.3 56.4 56.5 56.6 56.7 56.8 56.9 57.0 57.1 57.2 57.3 57.4 57.5 57.6 57.7 57.8 57.9 58.0 58.1 58.2 58.3 58.4 58.5 58.6 58.7 58.8 58.9 59.0 59.1 59.2 59.3 59.4 59.5 59.6 59.7 59.8 59.9 60.0 60.1 60.2 60.3 60.4 60.5 60.6 60.7 60.8 60.9 61.0 61.1 61.2 61.3 61.4 61.5 61.6 61.7 61.8 61.9 62.0 62.1 62.2 62.3 62.4 62.5 62.6 62.7 62.8 62.9 63.0 63.1 63.2 63.3 63.4 63.5 63.6 63.7 63.8 63.9 64.0 64.1 64.2 64.3 64.4 64.5 64.6 64.7 64.8 64.9 65.0 65.1 65.2 65.3 65.4 65.5 65.6 65.7 65.8 65.9 66.0 66.1 66.2 66.3 66.4 66.5 66.6 66.7 66.8 66.9 67.0 67.1 67.2 67.3 67.4 67.5 67.6 67.7 67.8 67.9 68.0 68.1 68.2 68.3 68.4 68.5 68.6 68.7 68.8 68.9 69.0 69.1 69.2 69.3 69.4 69.5 69.6 69.7 69.8 69.9 70.0 70.1 70.2 70.3 70.4 70.5 70.6 70.7 70.8 70.9 71.0 71.1 71.2 71.3 71.4 71.5 71.6 71.7 71.8 71.9 72.0 72.1 72.2 72.3 72.4 72.5 72.6 72.7 72.8 72.9 73.0 73.1 73.2 73.3 73.4 73.5 73.6 73.7 73.8 73.9 74.0 74.1 74.2 74.3 74.4 74.5 74.6 74.7 74.8 74.9 75.0 75.1 75.2 75.3 75.4 75.5 75.6 75.7 75.8 75.9 76.0 76.1 76.2 76.3 76.4 76.5 76.6 76.7 76.8 76.9 77.0 77.1 77.2 77.3 77.4 77.5 77.6 77.7 77.8 77.9 78.0 78.1 78.2 78.3 78.4 78.5 78.6 78.7 78.8 78.9 79.0 79.1 79.2 79.3 79.4 79.5 79.6 79.7 79.8 79.9 80.0 80.1 80.2 80.3 80.4 80.5 80.6 80.7 80.8 80.9 81.0 81.1 81.2 81.3 81.4 81.5 81.6 81.7 81.8 81.9 82.0 82.1 82.2 82.3 82.4 82.5 82.6 82.7 82.8 82.9 83.0 83.1 83.2 83.3 83.4 83.5 83.6 83.7 83.8 83.9 84.0 84.1 84.2 84.3 84.4 84.5 84.6 84.7 84.8 84.9 85.0 85.1 85.2 85.3 85.4 85.5 85.6 85.7 85.8 85.9 86.0 86.1 86.2 86.3 86.4 86.5 86.6 86.7 86.8 86.9 87.0 87.1 87.2 87.3 87.4 87.5 87.6 87.7 87.8 87.9 88.0 88.1 88.2 88.3 88.4 88.5 88.6 88.7 88.8 88.9 89.0 89.1 89.2 89.3 89.4 89.5 89.6 89.7 89.8 89.9 90.0 90.1 90.2 90.3 90.4 90.5 90.6 90.7 90.8 90.9 91.0 91.1 91.2 91.3 91.4 91.5 91.6 91.7 91.8 91.9 92.0 92.1 92.2 92.3 92.4 92.5 92.6 92.7 92.8 92.9 93.0 93.1 93.2 93.3 93.4 93.5 93.6 93.7 93.8 93.9 94.0 94.1 94.2 94.3 94.4 94.5 94.6 94.7 94.8 94.9 95.0 95.1 95.2 95.3 95.4 95.5 95.6 95.7 95.8 95.9 96.0 96.1 96.2 96.3 96.4 96.5 96.6 96.7 96.8 96.9 97.0 97.1 97.2 97.3 97.4 97.5 97.6 97.7 97.8 97.9 98.0 98.1 98.2 98.3 98.4 98.5 98.6 98.7 98.8 98.9 99.0 99.1 99.2 99.3 99.4 99.5 99.6 99.7 99.8 99.9 100.0 100.1 100.2 100.3 100.4 100.5 100.6 100.7 100.8 100.9 101.0 101.1 101.2 101.3 101.4 101.5 101.6 101.7 101.8 101.9 102.0 102.1 102.2 102.3 102.4 102.5 102.6 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SATURDAY JUNE 27 1987

Executive Editor
Kenneth Fleet

STOCK MARKET

FT 30 Share
1790.7 (+18.2)FT-SE 100
2291.3 (+14.1)Bergains
55708 (42659)USM (Datastream)
193.83 (+1.14)

THE POUND

US dollar
1.6140 (+0.0025)W German mark
2.9447 (-0.0003)Trade-weighted
72.2 (same)Rush for
Caradon
shares

The public offer of 13.45 million shares in Caradon, the bathroom specialist and building products group, at 250p each, was heavily over-subscribed when application lists closed yesterday.

SG Warburg, the merchant bank, said the basis of allocation of shares would be announced soon.

Letters of acceptance are likely to be posted on Thursday, and dealings are expected to start on Friday.

Reagan 'no' to budget

Mr Howard Baker, the White House Chief of Staff, said the budget resolution approved by Congress this week was unacceptable to President Reagan because it called for a tax increase and allocated inadequate funds for defence.

"The president's view is that there is too much waste, too many taxes and not enough defence in the congressional budget," he said. Later he added that White House staff were meeting congressional staff in an effort to reach a compromise.

\$2m cash call

Ludlow Thomson, the architectural firm, is to raise just over £2 million through a two-for-seven rights issue at 140p.

SUMMARY

STOCK MARKETS

New York	Dow Jones	2444.52 (+5.53)
Tokyo	Nikkei Dow	25049.83 (+18.48)
Hong Kong	Hang Seng	3138.88 (+2.37)
Amsterdam	Amst. 100	305.6 (+2.2)
Sydney	ASX	1748.3 (+5.4)
Frankfurt	Frankfurt	1891.5 (+8.1)
Brussels	Brussels	4799.8 (+8.1)
Paris	Paris CAC	401.4 (+3.4)
Zurich	SIX	2850.0 (+1.0)
London	FT 100	2291.3 (+14.1)
FT 30	FT 30	1790.7 (+18.2)
Recent issues		Page 25
Closing prices		Page 25

MAIN PRICE CHANGES

Shares		
ICI	384p	(+18p)
Royal Insurance	510p	(+21p)
Thorn EMI	780p	(+30p)
Stocks	865p	(+55p)
Vodafone	745p	(+55p)
Ward Holdings	720p	(+34p)
Biff	327p	(+10p)
Metal Box	282p	(+12p)
Executive	180p	(+17p)
Rothmans	345p	(+25p)
Messy Dock	170p	(+17p)
Reuters	861p	(+35p)
Minet	385p	(+17p)
Grain Trust	570p	(+25p)
Crest	280p	(+54p)
Avesco	120p	(+19p)
Stirling Ind.	243p	(+32p)

FALLS:		
Ryman Group	170p	(-12p)
ET Southern	80p	(-10p)
London Int.	314p	(-21p)
Prices are at 4pm		

INTEREST RATES

London Bank Base	9%
3-month interbank	9.25-9.5%
3-month eligible bills	8.75-9.25%
US Prime Rate	8.5%
Federal Funds	6.5%
3-month Treasury Bills	5.85-5.84%
30-year bonds	103-103.5

CURRENCIES

London:	New York:
£/\$1.6140	\$/£0.6196
£/DM2.9447	DM/\$1.6665
£/Sfr2.4420	Sfr/\$1.5140
£/FF9.8252	FF/\$1.0945
£/Yen236.20	Yen/\$1.0822
£/Indec102.2	Indec/\$1.0822
ECU/Efr	ECU/\$1.793100

GOLD

London Fixing:	
AM \$441.40 pm \$444.10	
Close \$443.75-444.25 (\$275.00-275.50)	
New York:	
Comex \$443.80-444.10	

NORTH SEA OIL

Brent (July)	pm \$18.95 (\$18.65)
Domestic latest trading price	

Stock Market	26	Comment	27
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Foreign Exchange	26	USM Prices	28
Traded Options	26	Share Prices	29

Willis set to buy Stewart
Insurance companies ready for £1bn link-up

By Lawrence Lever

Willis Faber, Britain's second largest quoted insurance group, is expected to announce an agreed bid for Stewart Wrightson, the insurance broker, on Monday, after the suspension of both companies' stock market quotations yesterday.

An agreed bid would make the combined group the fifth largest insurance broker in the world, with a stock market capitalization of about £1 billion.

Stewart Wrightson's shares had risen 53p this week, fuelled by speculation that a bid from Willis Faber was on the cards. They were suspended at £5 a share yesterday - a 17p rise on the day.

Citicorp has also been mentioned as a potentially aggressive predator.

Market sources said they expected the bid from Willis Faber to be about £5.20 a share.

The two sides are understood to have held discussions for a number of weeks, and although the structure of a deal is a bid from Willis Faber, the essence is expected to be more of a merger.

The suspension of both companies' shares was effected simultaneously at 3.01pm yesterday, with identical statements saying that an announcement was pending.

Willis Faber's shares were suspended at 437p a share. Willis Faber is more than three times the size of Stewart Wrightson. Its market capitalization is about £720 million compared to Stewart Wrightson's £220 million.

Mr Philip Olsen, of Kitcat & Aitken, the highest-ranked analyst in the insurance broking sector, said: "The two businesses are complementary. There is a similar culture between the two groups, although there would be some overlap and therefore some danger of fallout of staff."

Willis Faber has been highly successful, increasing its earnings per share at a compound

annual rate of 26 per cent. In March, the company, which is one of London's biggest Lloyd's insurance brokers, reported a 17 per cent increase in full-year profits before tax to £74.8 million - at the lower end of City expectations.

Stewart Wrightson, ranked among the top ten Lloyd's insurance brokers, posted a 15 per cent increase in profits before tax to £21.5 million in its most recent preliminary results announced at the end of March.

Mr David Rowland, the company's chairman, is highly rated in the City, and credited with the revitalization of the company's fortunes, which has been most evident in its profits performance over the past three years. He was instrumental in halting the company's diversification policy, which took it into areas such as forestry and shipping.

Last year, the company bought a North American broking team from CE Heath, and recently it announced plans to buy an actuarial and benefits consultancy. Mr Matthew Taylor of Barclays de Zoete Wedd said yesterday that if a merger took place, this would achieve Stewart Wrightson's expansion plans in one swoop, obviating the need for a series of strategic acquisitions.

From Andrew Clarke, New York

WPP Group, led by Mr Martin Sorrell, a former Saatchi executive, yesterday agreed merger terms with the American JWT group after raising its bid by \$5 to \$55.50 (£34.47) a share.

The merger, valuing JWT at \$566 million (£351 million), means the JWT group, which owns J Walter Thompson, the world's most famous advertising agency, becomes a wholly-owned subsidiary of WPP.

Under the merger agreement, Owl Group Inc, a WPP subsidiary, is amending its outstanding tender offer for all JWT shares.

Mr Don Johnston, JWT's chief executive, said after the merger announcement: "Our shareholders have been very well served by this agreement. Our commitment now is to look after the needs of both our clients and employees."

Wall Street reacted favourably to the news. Miss Victoria Butcher, an analyst who follows JWT for Eberstadt and Flemming, said she was "glad" JWT shareholders had received such a good price.

The acquisition is distinctive on a number of grounds. It follows the first hostile takeover bid in US advertising history, marks the swallowing of a media giant by a relative minnow, and the acquiring company intends to reappoint dismissed JWT executives to senior positions.

JWT was vulnerable to a raid due to management turmoil early in the year and an indifferent profit performance. J Walter Thompson has billings of more than \$2 billion a year that actually lost nearly \$5 million in the fourth quarter of last year. Earnings for 1986 fell 69 per cent to \$5.9 million.

The purchase price will be satisfied by the issue of 14.2 million new shares, priced at 120p. Most will be sold by the vendors and offered to existing JWT shareholders, along with a further \$60,000,000 designed to raise £10.3 million of new cash for the company, via a one-for-three rights issue.

Mr Landau, a solicitor, teamed up with Mr Robert Newman, an accountant, to take control at "The Times" Venerable last September, when it was worth only £3 million. The traditional business was sold back.

Kohnstam made profits of £2.21 million in the nine months to end-March. The management will be left in place to run the business.

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Comment 27

"It is, therefore, imperative that the international community give renewed hope to these countries by showing its willingness to provide increased aid and exceptional financial help in support of major efforts that they would be prepared to make to strengthen their economies."

M Camdessus pointed out that he proposed, and has received backing for the seven leading industrial democracies, for a tripling of the IMF's so-called structural adjustment facility, which assists the very poorest countries.

The facility is currently financed at

about \$380 million (£235 million), and M Camdessus said this amount was "totally insufficient."

The IMF executive committee made it clear that while the agency believes countries must sometimes pull in their belts and take tough austerity measures to cool their economies, the goal of the exercise is sustainable growth. He said that adjustment or reform of economies and growth go together.

In the past, the IMF has come under heavy criticism for pressing countries to take tough austerity measures that sometimes appeared to hurt poor people the most.

M Camdessus conceded that "too often, in recent years, it is the poorest segment of the population that has carried the heaviest burden of economic adjustment." But he said, this did not have to be so, arguing that the IMF currently works with countries to help shelter the poorest against the more painful aspects of reform.



Centre of attention: Iranian oil minister, Mr Gholamreza Aghazadeh, in Vienna

New Opec agreement likely to keep oil prices rising

Opec is expected today to finalize a new output agreement for the second half of this year which it hopes will keep the world oil price on its current upward trend.

Oil traders in London and New York are already anticipating a new deal. The price of North Sea crude has moved above the \$19 mark and the price of West Texas intermediate crude above \$20.

The new formula is expected to be put before a full ministerial session of Opec today after ministers spent yesterday discussing the issue in groups of up to five. The clearest indication that a new formula is close came following a lunchtime meeting between Saudi Arabia, Kuwait, Nigeria, Indonesia and Iran.

It has been Iran which has

been suggesting that the agreement reached in Geneva last December and due to have its second stage implemented on July 1 should be replaced.

The new agreement is expected to run for a full six-month period and to put a lower ceiling on quotas than had originally been predicted. Under the December agreement the present quota of 15.8 million barrels a day was to rise to 16.6 million on July 1 and 18.3 million on October 1.

Iran has argued that some predictions of world demand later this year are over-optimistic and that the tighter quota will have the effect of sending prices upwards.

The Iranian oil minister Mr Gholamreza Aghazadeh said: "It is most important that we defend the price. The spot price should rise above our benchmark price." The Nigerian oil minister and Opec president Mr Rilwani Lukman said work was progressing on a new agreement which would keep the present price firmness intact.

However, a problem remains over Iraq, which has been out of the Opec agreement for the past year and has been producing as much oil as possible to pay for its arms purchases. It wants to stay outside the agreement so it can utilize its new export pipeline to the Mediterranean via Turkey at the end of July.

Iran and several other member states are expected to insist that Iraq should agree to come back into the Opec fold, if not from July 1 then from January next year.

From David Young, Vienna

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Scholl rights sold for £98.2m

By Ray Heath

The right to manufacture and market Scholl footwear products everywhere outside the US, Canada and the Caribbean has been bought by European Home Products in a deal worth \$160 million (£98.2 million).

EHP said yesterday it intended to develop the brand-name of Scholl, which is most famous for its shaped wooden sandals, but is also the leading supplier of remedies for corns, callouses, bunions, hard skin, athlete's foot and other ailments.

The bid is being partly financed through a £48.8 million rights issue of EHP shares, and so marks a full recovery from the disastrous flotation of the company last September.

Shares in EHP, which was set up to exploit the Singer sewing machine and accessories business, were offered at 160p but after adverse publicity about Mr Harry Gittes, the chairman, were well under-subscribed. Dealings started at 140p, but when the shares were suspended pending the announcement of the Scholl deal, the price had climbed to 248p.

EHP believes that the expertise in niche marketing developed with the Singer name can be used to expand Scholl, which has been given low priority under its former owner, the US Schering-Plough pharmaceutical group.

With the Scholl name, and three factories in Britain making hosiery and footwear products, EHP is buying 112 shops - 108 are in Europe, and four in Latin America. In this country, it has 57 outlets, and the shops account for around 20 per cent of total sales, with the remainder being sold through 100,000 other retail outlets.

Scholl's profits in Europe appear to have been stagnant for around three years after slumping in 1982 from \$14.3 million to \$8.9 million. Last year, the business showed a profit of only \$8.2 million, but Mr Neil Franchino, who is leaving Schering-Plough to become managing director of Scholl, said yesterday that the figures disguised an improving underlying performance.

Currency translations, and overheads connected with other interests, were behind the apparently poor figures, said Mr Franchino. In the current year, pretax profits from Europe, and operating profits from Latin America and the Far East are expected to total \$18 million against \$12 million last year.

Terms of the rights issue are for every 30 ordinary now held, seven new ordinary at 210p.

Top staff walk out on County

By Our City Staff

County NatWest, the securities arm of the National Westminster Bank, has been hit by a wave of defections of key personnel.

These include the top-ranked electricals analyst, Mr Barry Gibb, who has left to work in Wood Mackenzie's London office. County's problems will be exacerbated next week when more key employees are expected to leave.

The five recent defections come from the research and institutional sales side of County's business, which has suffered over the past 18 months from staff turnover.

Apart from Mr Gibb, they include Mr Martin Evans, a chemicals analyst, and Mr Humphrey Harrison from County's oil sector research team. Two people on the institutional sales side have also left in the last fortnight.

Market sources said yesterday that many people at County are finding it hard to make the cultural adjustment from being an independent securities business to being a division of the Bank. County NatWest incorporates the former Bisgood Bishop jobbing firm and the Fielding Newson-Smith stockbroking business.

County sources said yesterday that Mr Gibb handed in his notice because he felt that his research, which has led him to second position in the electricals sector (according to the most recent Eitel survey of UK investment analysts), was not supported by a strong sales team.

Crest to raise £40m after doubled profits

By Alexandra Jackson

Mr Roger Lewis, group chief executive, said the choice of a convertible issue was appropriate as most of the projects being financed were spread over several years.

Commercial and industrial property schemes at Gloucester Docks, in Neath town centre and in Bristol will also now be funded by the group alone.

The group last came to the market in March 1986 with a £16.9 million ordinary rights issue. The shares closed 8p higher at 283p.

Tempus, page 27

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Nervous sellers take toll on RHM

FOREIGN EXCHANGES

OTHER STERLING RATES		DOLLAR SPOT RATES	
Argentina austral*	2.9187-2.9318	Ireland	1.4650-1.4680
Australia dollar	2.2418-2.2448	Malaysia	2.1182-2.1202
Barbados dollar	2.9057-0.6115	Singapore	2.5580-2.5180
Belize dollar	0.4828-0.4858	South Africa	1.7624-1.7187
Cyprus pound	0.7720-0.7820	Taiwan	1.3305-1.3315
Danish marka	0.6828-0.6858	Thailand	2.6500-2.6550
East German mark	2.2050-2.2150	Norway	6.6776-6.6825
Hong Kong dollar	12.5574-12.5058	Denmark	6.8850-6.8900
Indian rupee	16.6625-16.6675	Finland	5.6256-5.6306
Kuwait dirham KO	0.4530-0.4570	Switzerland	1.5135-1.5145
Malaysia dollar	4.0622-4.0670	Netherlands	2.0625-2.0550
Mexican peso	2.0000-2.0050	Belgium	3.4650-3.4700
New Zealand dollar	2.7328-2.7328	Japan	145.90-146.00
Saudi Arabia riyal	0.2650-0.2650	Italy	192.75-193.40
Sri Lanka rupee	2.0000-2.0000	U.S. dollar (Comm)	1.0000-1.0000
South Africa rand (R)	4.8184-4.8348	Hong Kong	7.8075-7.8075
South Africa rand (R)	5.5525-5.5525	Portugal	194.00-194.20
U.S. & German	1.0000-1.0000	Spain	166.38-166.38
*Lloyds Bank	2.9250-2.9900	Australia	12.85-12.85

LONDON FINANCIAL FUTURES

Long Gm	Previous day's total open interest				
Jun 87	123.00	123.25	123.24	123.25	2060
Sep 87	123.30	123.30	123.04	123.05	2060
Dec 87	NT	—	—	123.02	—

FT-SE 100	Previous day's total open interest				
Jun 87	230.30	231.00	230.00	229.80	79
Sep 87	226.30	226.20	224.20	226.30	69

- - ALPHA STOCKS

Artist	Volume '00	Company	Volume '00	Company	Volume '00
Allied-Lyons	1,700	English Hit	958	Rank Org	423
Amstron	2,600	Flamco	1,500	Rank Hooks	2,900
Angel	7,200	Fun Accidents	1,700	Rankies	2,500
ASDA	1,000	REC	7,200	Reckless Column	85
Asia Afr Foods	128	Glasso	1,000	Reed Int	1,800
BET	1,200	Globe IT	208	Reems	1,400
BN	2,300	Granada	2,800	RHAC Group	1,615
BAT	1,800	Grand Mist	1,700	RTZ	3,200
Barclays	1,600	GUS 'A'	137	Royaltee	378
Bass	97	IGNE	715	Royal 3rd Foot	99
Beacham	1,500	IBCH	4,100	Royal Int	2,200
Blue Circle	1,200	Gunnies	2,200	Seashell	595
BQC	2,410	Hazons	15,000	Shakespeare (J)	498
Boots	1,300	Howlar Skidelay	498	Sears	2,500
BPE Int	412	Hitdown	2,100	Shogakukan JP	8,600
Burton	3,300	Cap Green Int'l	1,200	Shostakov	2,000
BT Aerospace	2,000	Jaguar	257	Smith & Haywood	1,100
BT Airways	6,100	Ladbrokes	9,300	STC	1,200
BT Comm	135	Land Securities	1,700	Stan Chart	558
BT Consumer	24,000	Legal & Gen	1,119	Steele	1,400
BT Insurance	18,000	Levins	1,200	Sun Allman	548
BT Telecom	10,000	Lofbro	955	Tanaka	578
Celltel	3,700	Mame & Spencer	8,100	TBS FFP	6,400
Chemical	1,900	MSPC	800	Tesco	1,410
Clutton	1,100	Midland	864	Thorn EMI	1,700
Cable & Wireless	5,700	Net West	851	Trifalgar House	1,100
Cadbury Schwepp	400	Nest	2,000	Trusthouse Forte	2,400
Casti Vinyls	480	P & O Int	952	Unicredit	455
Chen Text	900	Parson	1,000	Unilever	1,800
Chen Goldfields	400	Philmington Bros	1,100	Unit Records	3,100
Cookson GP	218	Plessey	12,000	Welcome	898
Courtside	800	Procter	280	Whitbread 'A'	1,100
Ever Corp	4,000	Reed Int'l	2,800	Woolworth	1,000
Fluorac	2,600				

Stock prices on page 29

RECENT ISSUES

STOCKS

Burl Ind	75%	75%	Inland Steel	25%	25%	Texas Inst	51%	51%
Burl Mtn	77%	73%	IBM	100%	100%	Tex LHM	33	32%
CBS	174%	173%	Int Planet	51%	40%	Tombaker	0%	0%

[illegible]

By Ru

A deal which established the company back on television for the first time in 1987, was agreed between the Hoddings and International.

Prestwich markets a range of priced consumer products under the Polly Peck's Vase colour television plant in Turkey.

The order is an important international contract received by Vase, which has been mainly domestic Turkish Asil Nadr. Polly Peck, said last week, represented the globalisation of the company, which also produces cassette recordings of domestic television.

UK invest

Health

1. *Chlorophyll a* (Chl *a*)

TRADITIONAL OPTIONS

First Dealings	Last Dealings	Last Declaration	For Settlement
Jan. 22	Jul. 3	Aug. 24	Oct. 3
<p>Oil systems were taken out on 96/987 Corda Petroleum, Stewart, Wightson, Ryan, Int., FMC, Associated France, Border, IV, AB Engineering, Gen., Control Sals, Property Trust, Rotaprint, Belgum, Whewey, Arden Energy, Bridon, Hancock Drive, Mountknight, Raine Inds., Westwood Davis, Trencherwood, Amber Day, 3 First, Timoco, Stokes Leisure, Central & Shearwood, Westland, Rolle-Royce.</p> <p>Purec, Unigrip, FNFC.</p> <p>Pats & Coffer Sound Diffusion, Westland, Hyman, Chloride Group.</p>			

LONDON TRADED OPTIONS

[illegible]

1

Tuskar to join with Ardmore

By Colin Campbell

Tuskar Resources, an Irish oil exploration company quoted on the USM, and Ardmore Petroleum, which has extensive interests in Turkey, have agreed merger terms with the object of establishing a financially strong group.

Silvermines and Andacogruppen, which together have a 68 per cent interest in Ardmore, have said they will support the merger. The terms are four Tuskar shares for nine ordinary shares in Ardmore.

Following the acquisition, Tuskar will have committed cash resources of £25 million. In further arrangements announced yesterday, Silvermines has granted Tuskar an option to acquire its 24.7 per cent interest in the producing Kinsale Head gas field, and leases in which it is interested in the Marathon lease area of the Celtic Sea.

Ardmore's largest concession in Turkey is the extensive acreage it holds in the Sirir-Van area. Tuskar has reached agreement to farm into Ardmore's Turkish acreage on an equal basis. Both groups said yesterday they believe the oil industry is emerging from one of its worst recessions.

Bush name returns on televisions

By Ray Heath

A deal which will put the old-established Bush trade mark back on television sets for the first time in six years has been agreed between Prestwich Holdings and Polly Peck International.

Prestwich, which already markets a range of medium-priced consumer electronics products under the Bush label, has ordered about 50,000 colour television sets from Polly Peck's Vestel electronics plant in Turkey.

The order is the first important international contract received by Vestel, which has been mainly servicing the domestic Turkish market. Mr Asil Nadir, Polly Peck chairman, said last night that it represented the first stage in the globalization of Vestel, which also produces video cassette recorders and other domestic electronic products.

UK investment in Mexico up

British investment in Mexico has been rising since Mexico introduced its "debt for equity" programme in May 1986, according to Mexico's Ministry for Trade and Industry.

Travelworld chain could be target for Lunn Poly bid

By Derek Harris, Industrial Editor

Lunn Poly, the fast-growing retail travel agency arm of Thomson Travel, may make a bid for the National Travelworld agency chain, which is up for sale as part of its privatization plans of its parent, the National Bus Company.

There are more than 50 "serious inquiries" for the Travelworld business, according to National Bus. A management buyout led by Mr John Kelly, the Travelworld managing director, is also contemplated.

Trade estimates of Travelworld's value vary between £5 million and £10 million.

The prospect of a bid was being played down by Lunn Poly yesterday, but it has expressed an interest, and is waiting for documents from

National Bus which, together with an internal audit yet to be carried out, would decide the next move.

On the criterion of outlet numbers, such an acquisition would propel Lunn Poly from third in the agency sector to number one, ahead of Thomas Cook and Pickfords, both of which now have more than 300 branches. Lunn Poly, with 260, would not only obtain another 140 with Travelworld. But fewer than two thirds would be wholly owned.

Mr John MacNeill, Lunn Poly's managing director, said: "While we are interested, there are caveats. Many of the Travelworld outlets are small, and some are associated with bus station sites. That is not our scene. Our drive has been into prime high street sites."

He added: "But we have asked for details to see what it might offer us."

So long as National Bus wants to sell off the chain as a single entity it looks unlikely that the other big agency chains, including Cook's, Pickfords and Hogg Robinson, would be particularly keen to buy.

There are 87 Travelworld shops actually owned by Travelworld, and another 33 which are not, but which are licensed to use the Travelworld banner. The licensed outlets are largely at bus stations.

Travelworld's wholly owned shops include some prime high street sites, but many are in secondary high street positions. The chain's main base is in the North and especially west of the Pennines.



Nicholas Lancaster: City's Big Bang has created demand for cars such as Porsche

Lancaster geared up for SE

Yuppies who are prepared to pay £27,000 for a second-hand Porsche have boosted the profits of Lancaster, the motor dealer which is set to roar off the stock market starting grid valued at £28 million.

The company, which was started in 1969 by Mr Ronald Lancaster and his son Nicholas, is placing just over 25 per cent of its shares through Robert Fleming the banker, at a price of 165p a share. After

By Cliff Feltham

the flotation Matheson — part of the Jardine Matheson group — which injected £2.5 million into the business in 1981, will have 60 per cent.

Most of Lancaster's business is in selling specialist cars such as Porsche, Mercedes-Benz, Jaguar and Ferrari. But it also holds franchises for volume cars such as Vaux-

hall/Opel and Bedford vans.

Mr Nicholas Lancaster, the managing director, said the City's Big Bang had created demand for cars such as Porsche — even though it does not have an outlet in London.

Pretax profits have grown from £472,000 to £1.8 million in the year just ended. The £6.7 million from the placing is to set up new accident repair centres and improve its dealerships.

Marston brews £11 million profit

By Our City Staff

Marston, Thompson and Everard, the Burton-on-Trent brewers of Pedigree bitter, raised profits before tax to £11.4 million compared with £10.1 million last year.

The company's turnover

increased from £69.6 million to £72.1 million.

But there have been mixed fortunes so far this year.

After a good start, the early

improvement in trading has been eroded by this month's spell of bad weather.

On the stock market Marston's shares rose 4p to 153p after the announcement of the figures.

Benlox has '46% of Nolton'

By Cliff Feltham

Nolton, which has a hand in everything from property to shoe polish, made a plucky attempt at defending itself last night against a £15.6 million takeover bid from Benlox, the investment group.

But it was facing a tough time after Benlox, advised by Ifincorp Earl, the demerger specialist, revealed that together with its own shares and support from other shareholders it was speaking for 46 per cent of Nolton.

Mr Alan Hancock, Nolton's chief executive, said: "The bid is unwelcome. They have nothing to bring to the party. We don't think shareholders should accept."

Benlox is offering a share swap or a cash alternative of 61p. In the stock market, Nolton shares closed at 65p, down 2p.

A bid has been on the cards since Mr Andrew Millar, the former Nolton chairman, left the board in January to head Benlox. He has a 16.4 per cent stake in Nolton.

Mr Millar — who also leads Airborne Industries, which is backing the bid by Mr Richard Branson, the entrepreneur, to cross the Atlantic in a hot-air balloon — wants to have off parts of the Nolton group.

These include a packaging business, a chain of 16 recruitment agencies, and Carr & Day & Martin, a 200-year old shoe polish and equestrian equipment business.

Jewellery retailer sold for £1.6m

By Lawrence Lever

The latest entrepreneur to take over a stock market shell company emerged yesterday as South African-born Mr Darryl Phillips, aged 43, who is buying Acis Jewellery, a fully-quoted jewellery retailer which made losses of £413,000 in its last financial year.

Mr Phillips' 20p-a-share cash offer, which is already recommended by the Acis board, is worth about £1.6 million. His ambition is to turn it into a marketing services company. He has wasted no time with Acis yesterday announcing a £1.5 million one-for-one rights issue.

A private company controlled by Mr Phillips and various family trusts has already secured agreement to buy 46 per cent of Acis.

Mr Phillips built the Grey Group — the largest advertising group in South Africa — and moved to London a year ago, attracted by its "much broader horizons". He is the majority shareholder in the Grey Group.

COMMENT

Blaming everyone else for the debt crisis

The debt crisis never went away, it just hid below the surface for a while. Now, following some tidying up of the books by banks on both sides of the Atlantic, it is back in fashion. But there is little sign that the debt provisioning moves by Citicorp, National Westminster and other others will mark a new dawn. The debt debate, it is clear, has been effectively frozen.

The Baker Plan for channelling new money into the debtor nations is still alive in name. But there is little evidence of the co-operation between the commercial banks, governments and the international agencies required by the plan, which is intended to provide \$30 billion of new money by 1988.

In the past few days we have had a flurry of suggestions about debt. Michel Camdessus, the managing director of the International Monetary Fund, has called on the banks to step up the flow of funds into those middle income debtor countries of Latin America that are making structural reforms.

Henry Kaufman, Salomon Brothers' managing director and economic guru, also put the onus firmly on the private sector. In a speech on Thursday in New York, he noted that nearly all the new money flowing to the debtor countries since the crisis broke has come from official sources — and has been dwarfed by a net \$140 billion financial drain from the most heavily indebted countries since 1983.

Dr Kaufman wants to cut interest payments to a level which looks serviceable. This was proposed on a smaller scale in the Lawson plan for sub-Saharan Africa, which found its way into the Queen's Speech. Dr Kaufman argues that the loan provision announcements made so far have not hit the share prices of the banks concerned. Ergo, there should be no problem for financial markets in general debt relief.

But drastic provisions have thus far been made only by the banks most able to stand them. What was acceptable for Nat West may be less so for Midland.

Dr Kaufman also argued that debt relief will not cause banks to pull out of any new money negotiations with the debtor countries, and will not tempt the debtors to try the same thing again. To judge from the attitude of commercial banks, however, proposals for large-scale debt relief must be regarded with scepticism.

The Washington-based Institute for International Finance, bating on behalf of the commercial banks in the debt debate, has produced a report stressing the need for governments in the creditor countries to take a bigger role in the management of the debt crisis. In contrast to the Kaufman view, it is these governments, not the banks, who have

been the weak link in the chain over the past five years.

Barry Sullivan, head of the IFF and chairman of the First National Bank of Chicago, has been in London this week. He foresees a situation in which the banks would be tougher in negotiations and would be looking for more official action. Perhaps one of those midnight deadlines will finally be called.

The divergence of views among participants in the debt crisis — and all this has excluded the debtor countries from the debate — underlines the gulf that exists.

Seoul blues

It is not just Opposition leaders who face house arrest in Korea. Foreign investors, cautiously permitted to invest indirectly in the \$13 billion Seoul stock market are locked in too, at least in terms of their underlying investments. The British and other European investors, who rushed to take up shares at the launch of the \$30 million Korea-Europe Fund in March, have rapidly learned lessons in the art of timing and political risk.

Shares in the fund opened at a heady \$25, jumped temporarily to \$29, but have now slipped back to around \$20. That could be worse. One reason is that democratic revolutions have been made less alarming by developments in Spain and elsewhere.

More immediately, Korea's financial sector is still heavily controlled by detailed regulations as well as less formal direction. The biggest fall in share prices in Seoul was triggered by the government itself back in April, when it thought the low ratings that so attracted foreign investors to Korea's buoyant industry were going ahead too fast. It recommended institutional selling — and institutional investors were not slow to respond.

The Seoul share index, which then peaked at 405, plunged to 355 long before street politics reached fever pitch, and has since recovered to 382.

At present, industry is still doing well. The main threats are American retaliation against Korea's huge trade surplus with the United States and pressure for progressive revaluations of the once-lonely won against the dollar.

Investors may, for the moment, actually be thankful that they were not permitted to invest freely and directly in Korean shares, since the inevitable withdrawal of foreign investment would surely have hit prices harder. But that control was the counterpart to political control inside the country, which always invited potential instability and panic.

The extreme caution in opening the market to foreigners reflected the very long timetable that the government envisaged for political change. Financial freedom will certainly not come now without political freedom.

TEMPUS

Cash boost gives kick to Crest Nicholson's housing strategy

Crest Nicholson is not dragging its heels in implementing its strategy to concentrate on housing, property and construction.

Last year's ordinary rights issue to expand the property side is now being followed by a convertible issue to maximize opportunities in the housing market and to fund several long-term property projects.

The clear-out of the group's miscellaneous interests is almost complete. Proceeds of £9.7 million due from disposals, together with the £40.2 million convertible money, will reduce borrowings from 45 per cent to nil.

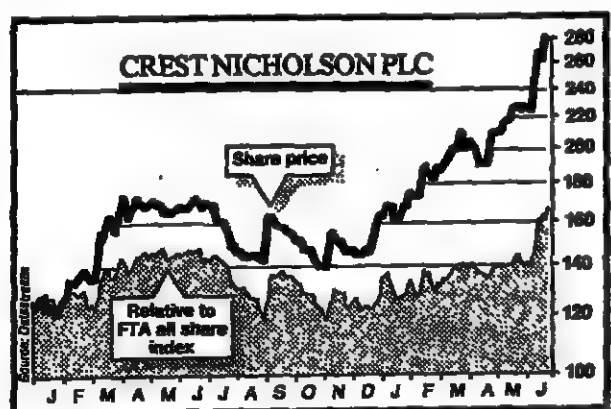
The company, with this financial strength behind it, is well poised to develop its business in East Anglia, among other things. Crest has decided to build its own business there, rather than make an acquisition. Sizeable sites in Stansted and Harlow have already been acquired.

The group will also be able to trade parcels of housing land on larger sites with other builders for plots elsewhere, rather than be forced by financial considerations to sell them outright.

The land-buying programme is ahead of schedule, with at least 18 months' worth of plots secure. Business at Crest, although primarily a southern-based company, is spread through 23 counties on 90 different sites. The average house price is £72,500.

The group is preparing itself for a possible slowdown in the housing market a year or 18 months hence by topping up its complement of first-time buyer land. When the market goes soft, this segment is usually the first to recover.

Crest's results showed a healthier margin than the first half of the previous year. The group should make £22 million in the full year. Earnings dilution this year and next year is expected to be minimal.



The streamlining of Crest's business is doing much to enhance its rating and improve the quality of its earnings. The price has been driven up recently by as yet unsubstantiated talk of a bid from The Berkeley Group. This has made the shares look topmy in the short term although they make a good longer-term holding.

Molins

Tozer Kemsley & Milbourn's £82 million bid for Molins, the specialist machinery maker — flatly rejected by the Molins board — has highlighted one of the less attractive characteristics of a booming stock market and a thriving corporate economy — impatience.

The market wants jam today. Molins is a classic case of a high-tech company concentrating all its energies into R&D that might take years to pay off. Its own management was aware of its fallibility 18 months ago and mounted a buyout attempt, with a view to taking the business out of the public eye. Its inability to provide a constantly improving profits pattern weakened the share price and left the group vulnerable.

Mr Ron Brierley, New Zealand entrepreneur extraordinaire, spotted it, too, and his IEP group took a 24 per cent stake last autumn, providing Mr Reg Heath,

TKM's chief executive and Mr Brierley's right-hand man in Britain, with his platform for a bid. Mr Heath argues that TKM will simply buy Molins the anonymity its directors crave.

TKM's forte is selling motor cars, but Mr Brierley's companies specialize in making poor-performing assets work. Molins management will stay. TKM will give them the protection, the time and, if necessary, the money.

There is no "industrial" logic, as TKM might be the first to admit. But the financial, and investment, logic is what counts these days. What matters most is that the price is right. TKM has offered less — 253p a share in shares and cash — than the management did in 1985, after adjusting for the rise in the market. Despite its pleas that the failure of the Molins share price to perform only underlines the weight of its arguments, the market has lifted Molins to 269p. TKM will have to up the ante if it is to stand a chance, but stand a chance it certainly does.

Leigh

One possible beneficiary of Tory plans to force local authorities to put more work out to tender is Leigh Industries, the waste disposal specialist.

Leigh deals mainly with the

sort of muck most people would not touch for any amount of brass, and this week it revealed it could make plenty of that too.

Profits for the full year to end-March were 53 per cent higher at £2.47 million, on turnover up a more modest 12 per cent to £42.25 million.

This continued the process of recovery from the plunge into losses in 1983, and partly reflects Leigh's position as a leading indicator of industry. The faster factories work, the more there is for Leigh to clear up, and as processes become more complex, and use more alien substances, the opportunities for the company grow.

The leading edge of Leigh's interests is not plastic bags full of coniferalees packets and tin cans, but it is an area where it would look to expand. In the past it has tendered, to no avail, for about 20 local authority waste disposal contracts, only to be thwarted by conservatives of both parties.

All that is going to change now, and Leigh can be expected to be pitching hard for business.

While that should provide more impetus to profits, the policies that should really benefit the company are those relating to the environment. Leigh is investing heavily in high-technology waste disposal techniques which will be increasingly in demand as the "green" lobby gathers speed. Leigh would love to see a common waste disposal policy implemented throughout the country, which would force those responsible to use correct toxic waste disposal procedures — all of which Leigh can supply.

Leigh's business is not a glamorous one, but it is indispensable and can only grow. With profits expected to climb further to about £3.5 million this year, the shares will be rated at 17.5 times earnings. They are not likely to become cheaper.

SELL

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Licensed Dealers in Securities

[illegible]

OVER FIFTEEN
UNDATED
INDEX

Portfolio
—Gold—

From your portfolio card check your eight share price movements, on this page only. Add them up to give you your overall total and check this against the daily dividend figure. If it matches, you have won outright or a share of the total daily prize money stated. If you are a winner follow the claim procedure on the back of your card. You must always have your card available when claiming. Game rules appear on the back of your card.

No.	Company	Group	Share or Unit
1	Starchouse (sa)	Drugs, Stores	
2	Turiff	Building, Roads	
3	Jordan (Thomas)	Industrials E-K	
4	Gallagher	Building, Roads	
5	TV-AM	Cinema, TV	
6	Liberty	Drugs, Stores	
7	Walker, Greenbank	Industrials S-Z	
8	Hopkinson	Industrials E-K	
9	Fife Indmar	Industrials E-K	
10	Woodworth (sa)	Drugs, Stores	
11	Hedder	Industrials E-K	
12	Redwood Hodge	Chemicals, Plastics	
13	Glenn & Hill	Building, Roads	
14	Robinson Res	Industrials L-R	
15	Ryl. Bk. Soc (sa)	Bank, Discount	
16	IBL	Electricals	
17	Whitehead 'A' (sa)	Breweries	
18	Star Comp	Industrials S-Z	
19	LDH	Industrials L-R	
20	Smart (J)	Building, Roads	
21	Canons 'A'	Drugs, Stores	
22	Benalla	Drugs, Stores	
23	Marion Thompson	Breweries	
24	Utd Scientific	Electricals	
25	Reus	Drugs, Stores	
26	Smiths Ind	Industrials S-Z	
27	Moss Bros	Drugs, Stores	
28	Hepworth Ceramic	Industrials E-K	
29	Metzler	Industrials L-R	
30	Wholesale Fitting	Electricals	
31	Utd Newspapers	Newspapers, Pub	
32	Norris	Industrials L-R	
33	Cook (Wm)	Industrials A-D	
34	Halma	Industrials E-K	
35	Aviation (sa)	Motors, Aircraft	
36	Blue Circle	Building, Roads	
37	Miller (Stanley)	Building, Roads	
38	Copson (F)	Industrials A-D	
39	Newman Tonia	Building, Roads	
40	Weston	Industrials S-Z	
41	Octopus	Newspapers, Pub	
42	Church	Drugs, Stores	
43	Parson (sa)	Industrials L-R	
44	C Times Newspapers Ltd	Daily Total	

Please take into account any minus signs

Weekly Dividend
Please make a note of your daily totals for the weekly dividend of £8,000 in today's newspaper.

MON	TUE	WED	THU	FRI	SAT	TOTAL

BRITISH FUNDS

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STOCK EXCHANGE PRICES

Firm end to account

(Current market price multiplied by the number of shares in issue for the stock quoted)
ACCOUNT DAYS: Dealings began on June 15. Dealings ended yesterday. \$Contango day on Monday. Settlement day July 6.
\$Forward bargains are permitted on two previous business days.

Prices are recorded at 5pm. Changes are calculated on the previous day's close and may differ from changes calculated by comparing 5pm prices, published the previous day. Where one price is quoted, it is a middle price. Changes, yields and price earnings ratios are based on middle prices. (sa) denotes Alpha Stocks. (VOLUMES PAGE 28)

1987	High	Low	Open	Close	1986
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COUNTY UNIT TRUSTS

COUNTY UNIT TRUSTS

KEY RATES

ABN	9.50%
Adam & Company	9.00%
BCCI	8.00%
Consolidated Crds	9.00%
Co-operative Bank	9.00%
C. Hoare & Co	9.00%
Hong Kong & Shanghai	9.00%
Lloyds Bank	9.00%
Nat Westminster	9.00%
Royal Bank of Scotland	9.00%
TSB	9.00%
Citibank NA	9.00%

UNIT-LINKED INSURANCE INVESTMENTS

Bid Offer Chng Yld				Bid Offer Chng Yld				Bid Offer Chng Yld				Bid Offer Chng Yld				Bid Offer Chng Yld			
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The prices in this section refer to Thursday's trading

Edited by Amanda Pardoe

FAMILY MONEY/1

THIS WEEK

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C&G role in new privatization

Cheltenham & Gloucester Building Society will offer a full share application and dealing service for the BAA issue. When trading starts, anyone will be able to sell shares through a C&G branch. Commission is 1.5 per cent plus VAT. The minimum for any sale is £15 plus VAT.

Norwich offer on pension plans

Norwich Union Asset Management's new offer on regular premium personal pension plans will double the capital units allocated in the first month of a monthly plan or increase the units of an annual plan by a twelfth in the first year. Closing date: July 31.

Loans scheme

A High Equity Loan from mortgage consultants John Charcol offers 75 per cent endowment mortgages on properties valued up to £250,000, and 70 per cent on higher amounts. Funds are through the Mortgage Corporation. The minimum loan is £37,500 and the interest rate 10.35 per cent.

What every investor should know

There's no pleasing some people. Recently, Will Hobhouse, managing director of Tie Rack, the high street retailer, received a letter that would have angered many but merely made him wonder whether the emergent small shareholder really understands what equity investment is all about.

Tie Rack, which sells ties and accessories, came to the stock market earlier this month by way of an offer for sale. The shares were priced on a near record 31.5 price earnings ratio, and the offer was 85 times oversubscribed.

The letter was from a widow, incensed about her failure to secure any Tie Rack shares. She was returning, with little grace, a voucher sent by the company to unsuccessful applicants offering £1 off a £5 purchase. Even the most cynical observer interpreted this generous gesture as no worse than a clever marketing gimmick — few were as vehement in their condemnation as Mr Hobhouse's correspondent.

"If you think that after not receiving any allocation of Tie Rack shares," she wrote, "and my £2,900 being tied up and losing interest for 11 days, I shall set a foot in your shop, you must be dreaming. I also have four sons and I shall tell them not to set a foot in your shops."

Strong words indeed and no doubt at the extreme end of the spectrum of outrage. But her letter reveals a fundamental misunderstanding of a stock market that remains, despite apparent evidence to the contrary, a very risky place.

The strength of the equity market combined with the Government's privatization drive bringing in its wake cries for wider share ownership — one wonders whether the Government would have bothered about wider share ownership if it had not got something to sell — has erased from many memories the fact that shares are not by definition gravity-defying.

Politicians and the media

have been partly responsible for giving the new investing public the impression that equity investment is a smooth path to certain riches. Losing money in absolute terms is actually quite difficult in today's markets.

But although choosing stocks is mostly a matter of picking one that may do relatively better than another, the possibility of losing all one's money should not be forgotten.

Most investment professionals have continued to stress the risks involved. By buying shares, money is "lent" to a company to enable it to develop its business, in return, if things go well, for dividends.

Over and above this, shares can be traded on the stock market, so if supply exceeds demand, the price will rise and

money to participate in early dealing profits on new issues. And some issuing houses cash all applicants' cheques, successful or otherwise, and receive interest on the proceeds.

The widow should have understood that the likelihood of oversubscription and a juicy opening premium, which no doubt attracted her to the offer in the first place, meant that it was very possible that her application would be rejected and her money tied up fruitlessly.

The Tie Rack episode was more extreme than most as more than £1 billion was submitted for £12.5 million worth of shares, making a huge imbalance a certainty. It would have been a nonsense to allocate a few shares to all 315,000 applicants.

The Tie Rack advisers priced the issue at a level appropriate to market conditions. Indeed, the rating was high enough to deter many from the start.

Successful issues tend to be the norm in today's bull market. But it is just as possible for shares to open at a discount showing the investor an immediate loss. This happens when demand is too weak to satisfy supply. One wonders what the widow's letter would have said had this been the case.

On a happier note, Mr Hobhouse reports that other thwarted investors were delighted with their vouchers and even bought shares in the after-market. Nevertheless, the widow may not be alone in believing that the age-old law that your cannot get something for nothing has been revoked.

The imminent privatization of BAA — formerly the British Airports Authority — could bring with it a further string of complications for the private investor.

The biggest hurdle to clear is the novel structure of the offer. Although at least 75 per cent of the 500 million shares will be offered at a fixed price, additional applications may be made by way of a tender

with £7,500, for example, get 8.75 per cent net paid annually on the society's 60-day notice account.

For those with only a small sum to invest, and who like to be able to get their hands on it easily, the Aid to Thrift is the clear winner, according to both Building Society Choice and Chase de Vere's Moneyline.

Aid to Thrift's Share account can be opened with £1, and withdrawals can be made instantly without incurring any penalty. The current rate is 8.25 per cent net and is paid annually.

The next best instant access account with no minimum comes from the Wessex Building Society, says Choice. Its Ordinary Shares are paying 8 per cent net.

Amanda Pardoe

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All tied up: Ray Bish, very pleased chairman of Tie Rack

offer at or above the fixed price.

The tender offer should enable investors to build up more substantial holdings than is normal in privatizations as well as maximizing the Government's proceeds.

The minimum application for fixed-price shares will be 150 shares, and the minimum application for tender shares will be 1,000. Both the fixed-price offer and tender offer will be partly paid on application and the balance paid by May 19, 1988. A number of bonus shares will be allocated to those still holding shares on July 31, 1990.

This is the beginning of the peak holiday season when many schools break up for the summer. Potential investors who will be away at this time should consider appointing an agent with power of attorney to act on their behalf.

Alexandra Jackson

The timing of the issue brings additional complications for some. Although the pathfinder prospectus was published last week giving many vital details, the price will not be revealed until Friday, July 10. Applications must be submitted by 10am on Tuesday, July 16.

This is the beginning of the peak holiday season when many schools break up for the summer. Potential investors who will be away at this time should consider appointing an agent with power of attorney to act on their behalf.

Alexandra Jackson

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8.60% 8.78% 12.03%

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Hurry, while rates last

As a widespread cut in the mortgage rate has not yet been announced, savers can still hope to get an attractive rate of interest on a variety of building society accounts — but time may be running out.

The Nottingham Building Society's Sterling Growth account, for example, will not be available after June 30.

Sterling Growth guarantees to pay 4 per cent a year extra interest over the ordinary share rate for one year from the date of opening the account.

The current rate is 9 per cent net, and is paid half-yearly.

The minimum investment is £1,000. Withdrawals are subject to 90 days' notice or 90 days' loss of interest after the first nine months — before then, all withdrawals lose 90 days' interest.

The Yorkshire Building Society is launching a limited-issue two-year term share on July 1.

Premier Key guarantees to pay 4.05 per cent above the paid-up share rate for the next two years, and the current rate is higher than Sterling Growth's, at 9.05 per cent net. However, interest is paid only

Larger sums attract the best interest

annually, and no withdrawals can be made, although the account can be closed at any time subject to 90 days' notice or 90 days' loss of interest.

Not surprisingly, the larger the investment, the better the chance of getting a high rate of interest. Customers of the Paddington Building Society

with £7,500, for example, get 8.75 per cent net paid annually on the society's 60-day notice account.

For those with only a small sum to invest, and who like to be able to get their hands on it easily, the Aid to Thrift is the clear winner, according to both Building Society Choice and Chase de Vere's Moneyline.

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Amanda Pardoe

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Fidelity Special Situations Trust (UK invested, launched 17.12.79)	+1028%	+441%
Fidelity European Trust (launched 4.11.85)	+122%	+71%
Fidelity American Trust (launched 17.12.79)	+420%	+259%
Fidelity SE Asia Trust (launched 13.10.84)*	+120%	+113%
Fidelity Japan Trust (launched 12.10.81)	+599%	+403%

(Source: Oriel Statistics figures, on an offer to offer price basis 1.1.87, with income re-invested. *Most units in the sector include Japanese investments (excluded from Fidelity SE Asia Trust) which have enhanced their performance over this period.)

Furthermore, Fidelity's overall investment performance, weighted by size across markets, confirms Fidelity's consistently high ranking among the UK's 30 largest unit trust managers:—

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	6th	5th	7th	9th	1st	2nd	1st

(Source: Planned 30 large unit trust management groups' weighted performance as at 1.1.87.)

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Fidelity Performance Portfolios Limited

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The cost of schools that pay dividends

More and more people are choosing private education for their children. In its annual census ISIS, the Independent Schools Information Service, reported that during 1986 the number of pupils at independent schools rose by a record 2.2 per cent, to 430,254, representing around 7 per cent of all schoolchildren.

There are numerous reasons for this trend — in broad terms, many people are unhappy with the state education system and with the disruptive effect of the teachers' disputes. Other, more personal reasons include preferences for smaller classes, for a single-sex education or for a school that caters for a particular religion.

One certainty is that people do not opt for a private education because it is cheap. ISIS says a term at a senior boys' boarding school costs between £1,000 and £2,250, while for a day pupil the termly fees are £500 to £2,000. Girls' schools and preparatory schools tend to cost less.

In spite of the expense, it is not only wealthy parents and guardians who pay for their children's education. Many people with very modest incomes are prepared to change their lifestyle to pay their children's school fees.

Often this may mean forfeiting the annual holiday, selling the second car or taking on extra work. In some instances families will even move home, to a smaller house or to one close enough to the school for the child to be a day pupil.

Putting aside money does not guarantee that the family will not have to make any sacrifices when the bills start to arrive, but it can reduce the burden quite considerably.

Not surprisingly, with the growing popularity of private

education, there are a number of life assurance companies that have drawn up schemes designed specifically for school fees.

There are also several brokers that specialize in school fees planning — School Fees Insurance Agency (SFIA), C. Howard & Partners, Invest for School Fees (80 per cent of which was recently acquired by insurance brokers Willis Faber), Clarendon Saville, Whitehead & Partners and Fraser Mann.

There are various ways of making provision for school fees. These fall into two broad categories — plans funded from capital and plans funded from income.

With capital plans, a single lump sum is invested. Obviously, the earlier such a plan is started, the smaller the initial sum will need to be, as there will be longer for the capital to appreciate.

A number of schools offer their own capital plans, or commission fees as they are usually called. This method can be particularly attractive for higher-rate taxpayers.

With commission fees, the school uses the lump sum investment to buy an annuity, and because of its charitable status, it receives a tax rebate. This is commonly used to provide scholarship funds. If a parent were to buy the annuity instead, income tax would be due on the payments.

The disadvantage of this type of school fees plan is that it is tied to a particular school. If the child does not take up the place at the appropriate time, the school may not transfer the annuity. Instead, the school may cash it in and charge a penalty.

An educational trust provides a less restrictive method of capital planning, yet still benefits from the school's charitable status. With an educational trust you do not as a rule need to name the preferred school until a month before the child's first term. What is more, the payments can be easily transferred if the child changes school.

Two different educational trust plans are offered by SFIA — the Guaranteed Annuity and the Investment Annuity. The former provides a guaranteed level of fees, the amount of which is determined when the plan is taken out. The figures shown in the table are based on the Guaranteed Annuity.

With the Investment Annuity the plan is notionally linked to Sun Life Unit Assurance's Managed Fund. The Investment Annuity ideally should run for at least five years, although it can be used to fund fees due in three years' time.

Based on past performance, the figures quoted in the accompanying table for six, nine and 12 years hence using the Guaranteed Annuity would have produced much higher fees per term if the lump sum had been put into an Investment Annuity plan.

EDUCATIONAL TRUSTS

LEVEL FEES

Capital for 15 terms at £200 per term, that is, £12,000

Interest between setting up plan and child starting school

	0-3 mths	6 yrs	9 yrs	12 yrs
Equitable Life	£10,240	£8,667	£5,322	£4,192
Royal Life	£10,586	£8,871	£5,448	£4,289
Save & Prosper	£10,388	£8,824	£5,340	£4,211
SFIA	£10,557	£8,501	£5,076	£3,958

TAKING 5% INFLATION INTO ACCOUNT

Capital for 15 terms currently £200 per term, starting in 1989

Increasing from 1988, that is, total fees £13,200

Increasing from now, that is, total fees £23,000

	Increasing from 1988, that is, total fees £13,200	Increasing from now, that is, total fees £23,000
Equitable Life	£4,501	£8,140
Royal Life	£4,702	£8,444
Save & Prosper	£4,620	£8,298
SFIA	£4,339	£7,768

All quotes given June 1987

* Quotes based on non-profit policies

* Quotes based on guaranteed annuity



Happiest days — but the best schooldays can be expensive

It is important to check out the tax implications before taking out an educational trust plan. Depending on whether or not the contributor is a parent and whether the right to surrender the plan has been retained or waived, liability to inheritance tax may be incurred.

School fees plans do not have to rely on charitable status. In fact, brokers will draw up a plan, the intended aim of which is the provision of finance for school fees, but which on maturity can in fact be used for any other purpose.

Usually, the type of investments considered for such plans may include with-profit endowment policies, managed funds, unit trusts, building society accounts and National Savings Certificates. These plans can be funded by either a single lump sum or regular savings from income.

There is no hard and fast rule for the cost of a school fees plan. How much you

invest depends on the level of fees expected and, of course, on how much you can afford.

The important thing is to be realistic. Make sure you are aware of what part of your investment is guaranteed and what growth assumptions have been made. And check what provision has been made for inflation.

The table clearly shows the difference between ignoring inflation, allowing for it from the time the child starts school and taking it into account from the outset. Even if you cannot afford to provide for inflation on this last basis, it is better to have some idea of the likely shortfall from the start.

Amanda Pardoe

Brokers specializing in school fees: Clarendon Saville, 0990 28787; C. Howard & Partners, 01-734 8631; Fraser Mann, 01-831 2123; Invest for School Fees, 0443 217211; SFIA, 0628 34291; Whitehead & Partners 01-434 0711

Instant cash for fee-paying parents

The Education Expenses Plan, just launched by the Royal Bank of Scotland and Scottish Widows, is aimed at parents who need immediate finance for their children's school, college or university education.

The loan, which must be secured by a charge over your home or stocks and shares, for example, is repaid by an Endowment Plus policy taken out with Scottish Widows.

The cost of the borrowing falls into three parts — the endowment policy premiums, the amount of which is fixed from the outset, the interest on the loan, and the set-up costs.

The rate of interest is base rate plus 2.5 per cent with a minimum of 9 per cent a year.

Interest is charged only on the amount outstanding and is drawn monthly from your bank account by direct debit. The maximum size of the loan is agreed at the outset, and you are then free to choose when and how much you borrow, subject to this limit.

The term of the loan can be between 10 and 25 years, and the endowment policy, which is used to repay the borrowing, must run for the same period.

The set-up charges include an administration fee of £100, the costs of establishing the security and any valuation report charge incurred.

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* Gross equivalent assuming basic rate tax.

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BUSINESS EXPANSION SCHEME

Invest with the leader

Lazard Brothers has launched The Eighth Lazard Development Capital Fund, its first BES fund for the 1987/88 tax year. Once again, participants are offered the right to invest, without any immediate commitment, up to three times their Eighth Fund participation, in a proposed end-of-year fund which is expected to close early in 1988.

The Fund's investment policy and the tax concessions of the BES together provide an outstanding investment opportunity for higher rate taxpayers.

Total funds raised by Lazard Brothers under the BES now exceed £27.3 million — the largest amount raised by any manager of approved BES funds — and investments have been made in 52 companies. In the last tax year, Lazard Brothers raised and invested £8.5 million under the BES, which represented more than 25 per cent. of the total money raised through approved BES funds.

To obtain further details of the Fund, please telephone Jane Lamont on 01-588-2721 or send her the coupon below.

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4. The well balanced spread of investments
5. The emphasis given to planning the realisation of investments

The application list will close on 3 August 1987 but may be closed earlier at the manager's discretion.

The Eighth Lazard Development Capital Fund is a fund approved by the Inland Revenue under the terms of the Finance Act 1983 and will be managed by Lazard Development Capital Limited, a subsidiary of Lazard Brothers & Co. Limited and a member of FIMBRA.

To: Jane Lamont, Lazard Development Capital Limited, 21 Moorfields, London EC2P 2HT

Please send me a Memorandum describing The Eighth Lazard Development Capital Fund

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This advertisement does not constitute an invitation to subscribe to the Fund. Applications to subscribe will be accepted only on the basis of the terms and conditions set out in the Memorandum describing the Fund. Investment in unquoted companies carries higher risks as well as the chance of higher rewards.

Lazard Brothers & Co., Limited

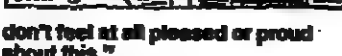
Watchdog puts forward new cash card rules

Wanted: cash fish and phone

Watchdog puts forward new cash card rules

■ **Hinton and Wild (Home Plans)** Ltd, reported yesterday that it had had to withdraw the Home Cash Plan it launched in March. The plans were based on the

A letter from Davis went to all applicants this week, advising them of the situation. Mr. Davison has apologized to all the pensioners and has reassured them that reasonable legal expenses up to £250 will be reimbursed, together with all survey fees paid. He is now seeking further legal advice on how to clear up the matter, but confirms: "Nobody will lose their home." He added: "I



The company has designed a computer graphics package to help illustrate what 1988 means to individual employees in terms of pensions provision, and has produced a comprehensive fact file for employers.

In addition, there is a monthly bulletin called *Facilities*, and the company is running *Helpline*, a

As an incentive, Beales is offering personal customers £25 gift vouchers for every £5,000 invested in the Skipton Building Society through its stores. The offer is open until August 31.



Features of the plan include inflation protection, optional Permanent Total Disability cover and optional Tax Shield cover. Housewives can take out a plan, but only with a deferred period of six or 12 months, and up to a maximum of £300 a month benefit.

The cost of the premiums is determined by a number of factors including age, occupation, amount of benefit, the length of the waiting period and sex. Women pay more than men, based on a sliding scale ranging from 50 per cent more for a one-month deferred period to 30 per cent more for a 12-month waiting period.

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Wanted: cash for fish and phones

Chris Baker, of Bolton House Investments, the sponsor's parent company, explains that the sponsor has the right to appoint a director if necessary. He thinks the leap in value is justified because the company's projection (not forecast) of £225,000 profits for this financial year means the valuation is actually relatively modest.

You should note that unless Sea Catch gets fairly near its target, a large chunk of your money will go on issue expenses. If Sea Catch raises, say, £1.5 million, the expenses should be around 11 per cent of the invested money. But if it gets only £500,000, about 25 per cent goes on the expenses.

Lawrence Lever


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— *Journal of the American Medical Association*, 1997

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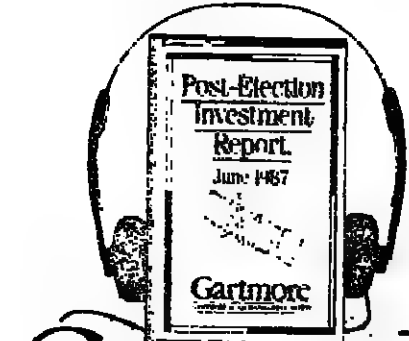
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Another bottle of gin? Duty-free shoppers should make certain they will not be taxed twice

A double dose of VAT

Uninformed holiday-makers in Europe could face a double dose of VAT on the day purchases they bring back home.

ALAN BUCKETT advises

Member states of the European Community levy a local equivalent of VAT on consumer spending, just as Britain does. But in principle goods purchased abroad are also liable to a UK VAT charge when they enter this country. It means you could pay VAT twice. With a little

effort, however, you can avoid this double charge.

First, it is worth remembering that a traveller returning here can import goods up to the value of £250 as part of his duty-free and tax-free allowances if the items have been obtained tax-paid in one of the other European Community states. This allowance does not apply to goods obtained outside the Community, in a duty-free shop, or goods free of duty and tax on board a ship or an aircraft.

Most Community member states also operate an "over-the-counter personal export scheme". Such schemes enable visitors either to purchase items free of the local equivalent of VAT or, more usually, to obtain a tax refund from the retailer after the items have been exported from the country in which they were purchased. Most of the popular holiday destinations, including France, Spain and Italy, operate this scheme. Portugal, a fairly new member, does not.

These over-the-counter personal export schemes are really only for items of relatively high value. The minimum value before items are eligible for this special treatment varies from country to country, but the present lower limits for the three countries

All schemes on the same basic principle

above are 2,400 French francs, 40,000 Spanish pesetas and 525,000 Italian lire. Sterling equivalents are roughly £240 in France and Italy and £190 in Spain.

Apart from a few minor variations, all the schemes operate on the same basic principle. The item is sold at a price inclusive of tax at the appropriate rate. There is, of course, an exception—in Italy the retailer has the choice of selling the goods tax-free.

At the time of purchase, a holidaymaker should be given, or request, the appropriate forms identifying the items purchased and their price and including space for personal details, such as your passport number. In some cases, copies of the sales invoices will replace these forms.

Whatever the format, however, the forms must be produced with the purchases either to the Customs authorities at the port of departure or to UK Customs on arrival.

home. Make sure the forms are stamped with the official Customs stamp, then send them back to the shop where the goods were bought. The shop should then refund any VAT charged. If for some reason it does not, be persistent.

Unfortunately, complaints to individual VAT authorities, including UK Customs and Excise, are likely to meet with sympathy but little else.

Points to remember:

- Before you set your heart on that expensive piece of jewellery, ask the retailer if he operates the personal export scheme
- Be prepared to pay the VAT first and claim the refund later
- Be prepared to produce your passport to the retailer as he may need to quote the number on official documents
- Have the purchases and paperwork ready for Customs to certify when you enter the UK
- Declare purchases made in this way to Customs and be prepared to pay any VAT due. This will be based on 15 per cent of the import value of the items
- To claim the tax refund you must send the certified documents back to the shop that sold you the items

The procedure for genuine antiques, however, is different, as these are eligible under the general relief from import VAT applying to such items. A double charge to tax should, therefore, not arise. Nevertheless declare these purchases on arrival as Customs officials may need to see evidence that the antiques are at least 100 years old.

Certain original works of art may also be eligible for VAT-free importation into the UK, but the conditions governing this relief are rather more complicated and beyond the scope of this article.

By using a retail export scheme, you can avoid paying VAT twice on purchases made abroad but do not expect such schemes to be applied automatically.

It is best to do some research before you start out on holiday. Check how the scheme operates in the country you are visiting and be prepared to make the initial outlay first. For valuable purchases, however, those who persevere should be well rewarded.

Alan Buckett is VAT Partner of the chartered accountants, Binder Hamlyn.

Take care, it's the cash that counts

If you are about to escape this typical English summer for a couple of weeks of sun, you will probably be impatient to get your bags packed and head for the airport.

But before you leave, make sure you have thought of everything. Most of us manage to leave something important behind, so why not make a list of the most crucial items?

Money comes top of the list, along with passport and tickets. Travellers' cheques are widely accepted as the best way of carrying large sums abroad and are available from all banks and most big building societies. You should be able to obtain them straight away and you do not have to be a customer of a particular bank or society.

So if you are in a hurry and your branch says it cannot supply them straight away, go along the street. The standard fee for travellers' cheque transactions is 1 per cent, although you will quite often find the minimum charge is £2.

Commission varies between countries

If you are not a regular customer you may have to pay a little more. Barclays, for instance, charges an additional £1 above the norm, and £2 on Saturday mornings.

Building societies do not offer a very extensive foreign exchange service. You can get sterling travellers' cheques over the counter at all of them, although if you are a Halifax customer you have to order them a week in advance. National Girobank customers can request travellers' cheques or foreign currency by filling in the transfer slip on their cheque book. Girobank will send whatever you request by registered post at a cost of 1 per cent plus a £1.50 handling charge. If you want to buy travellers' cheques at a post office you must pay in cash.

The commission rate for cashing travellers' cheques will vary from country to country and from bank to bank. Buying foreign currency abroad is also a lottery in commissions terms, although the actual exchange rate is supposed to be the best available on the day. French banks are notoriously bad on exchange rates, however, so you will need your wits about you.

A wide range of currencies can be bought at your bank

branch before you go, but if you are going to a country such as Poland, give a few days' notice. Demand for the zloty is not what it used to be.

Some countries, mainly African and Eastern European, limit the amount of their currency that can be brought in and taken out. If you are asked to declare how much you are bringing in and it appears you are over the limit, find someone you can trust to take the excess in for you.

If you intend taking your cheque book on holiday, make sure you have obtained a Eurocheque book and card from your bank. These can be used wherever you see the red and blue EC symbol. There are 200,000 banks and more than five million retailers, restaurants and hotels in 40 European countries displaying the sign.

Cheques are normally issued in the currency of the relevant country and all are guaranteed up to the equivalent value of £100. There are no restrictions on the number of Eurocheques that can be used in any one day or for any one transaction. The Eurocheque card is valid for two years and costs £4. Every cheque written with it attracts a charge of about 1.5 per cent and a 30p handling charge.

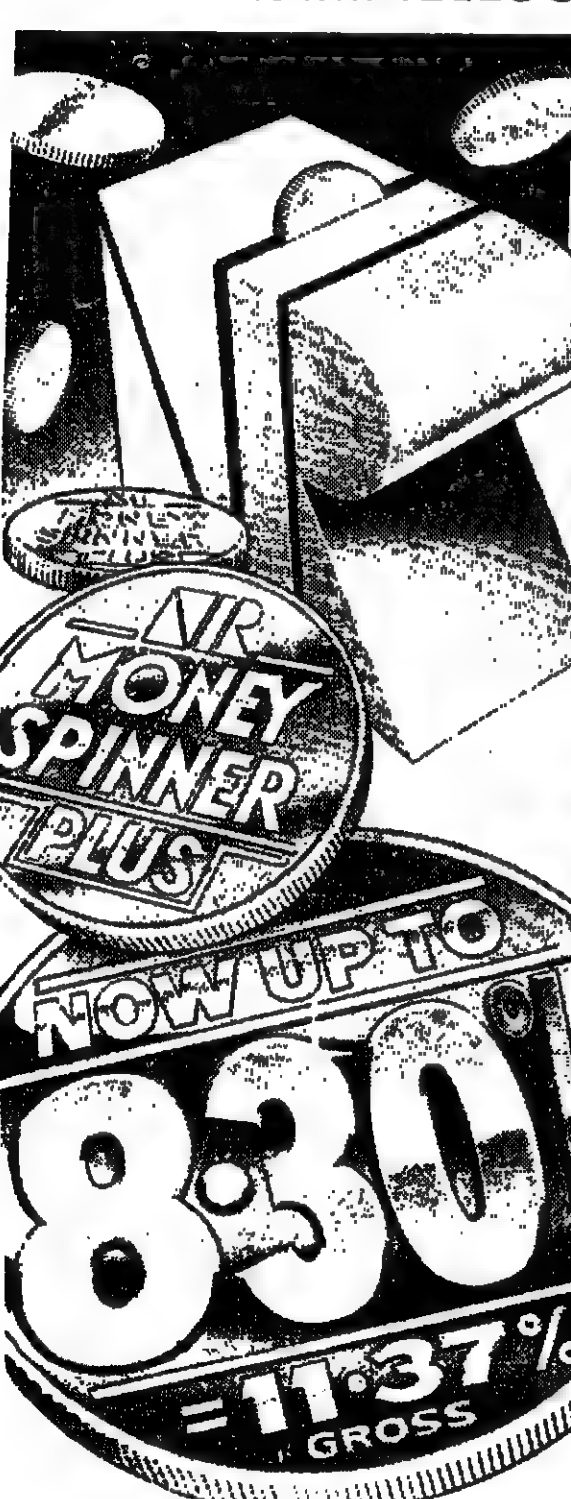
Some plastic cards are truly international, others are not. When the going gets tough, your American Express and Diners Club charge cards are unlikely to be any use.

A Visa credit card has considerably more cachet, especially outside the United States and Western Europe. It is recognized in 160 countries and, of course, you are not charged interest if you settle your account in full by the due date. If you run short of cash, you can use your Visa card to get the equivalent of £100 a day in local currency at any bank displaying the Visa sign. The credit card company will charge 1.5 per cent for this facility. In Europe, the United States and Australia you can now also make use of Visa cash machines.

Barclaycard offers free personal accident cover to holidaymakers who pay for their fare with their card. The cover is for up to £50,000 and extends to travel by hired car, and to journeys by bus, ship, ferry, hovercraft, train and aircraft.

Richard Newell

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Every contribution of £100 or more into one trust qualifies for a special bonus of one per cent extra units. This applies to your initial investment as well as to your monthly contributions. Many investors start off with a lump sum of hundreds (or even thousands) of pounds so as to make the most of this special bonus.

CASHING IN

Once you have started your plan you can put in extra on any allocation day. You can stop it or cash it in whenever you wish. When you cash in your plan you will receive the full bid value of your units on the day your written instructions are received. There are no penalties or deductions.

INCOME

The net income from your units is reinvested for you, using accumulation units in which the income is rolled up in the price.

CAPITAL GAINS TAX

When you cash in your plan you may be liable for capital gains tax, but only if your total gains in that year after allowing for inflation exceed £6,600. The Government has said that this amount will itself be increased each year in line with the RPI.

STATEMENTS

Certificates for your unitholding are not issued, but every six months you will be sent a statement setting out the number of units added each month and your total holding. You will also be sent a report on the progress of your fund. You can check the price of your units every day in the Daily Telegraph, Times, Financial Times or Independent.

OUR INVESTMENT SUGGESTION

One of the most popular links with Savings Plan members is Framlington Capital Trust and this is also the fund we are recommending today.

Capital Trust was started in 1969 to invest for full-blooded capital growth, together with modest but growing income. The trust invests in British companies, with an emphasis on smaller firms with good growth prospects. It has done very well: units have increased in value since it started by *more than 17 times*. And *Planned Savings* magazine has calculated that monthly savings of £20 over the fifteen years to 1st June would have produced an amazing £40,089 for a total investment of £3,600.

There can of course be no guarantee that this performance will be repeated in the future; the price of units and the income reinvested in them can go down as well as up.

LOW CHARGES

Framlington's unit trust charges are amongst the lowest in the business. The annual charge is only ¾ per cent (+VAT) of the value of your holding. The initial charge included in the offer price is 5 per cent. There are no additional charges for the Plan. *We regret that on Savings Plans commission is not payable to agents.*

YOUR PROTECTION

Unit trusts pool the contributions of large numbers of investors so that a wide spread of shares can be acquired and divided amongst them. The investments are held on behalf of the unitholders by a Trustee, in our case Lloyds Bank Plc. Capital Trust

is managed for you by us, Framlington Unit Management Limited, 3 London Wall Buildings, London EC2M 5NQ. Telephone: 01-628 5181. We are members of the Unit Trust Association.

CHILDREN

If you would like to take out a Plan for a child under 18 (a good idea) you should apply in your own name, but put the child's initials in the box provided. If you wish to take out a plan for a child who is *not* your own, you may wish to covenant the payments so as to obtain tax relief: details are in our leaflet *Investing for Children*, available on request.

HOW TO START

Fill in the application form and send it to us, first class, to arrive by Monday 6th July, with your cheque for the initial contribution (which may be as much as you like). We shall send back to you a direct debit mandate to complete and return in the reply-paid envelope we provide. Please note that to join the Plan you *must* have a current account with either a Clearing Bank or Girobank. All contributions of £100 or more receive a one per cent bonus.

FRAMLINGTON

From small beginnings in 1969, when we started with Capital Trust, the Framlington group has expanded steadily. We now run unit trusts worth over £550 million for 109,000 unitholders, including 15,000 savings plan members.

The main reason for this success has been our investment performance.

Based on the record of our funds over a five year period, we are *What Investment* magazine's Management Group of the Year for 1987.

We were also their group of the year in 1984, won the BBC *Money Box* unit trust managers competition in 1983, 1981 and 1979, were *Observer* Unit Trust Managers of the Year in 1982 and 1981, *Sunday Telegraph* Unit Trust Group of 1982 and (when only a fortunate few had invested with us), *Observer* Small Unit Trust Managers of the Year in 1977 and 1978.

Capital Trust itself has always been a top performer. The £40,089 outcome of a savings plan of £20 per month over the fifteen years to 1st June was in fact the best performance of the entire unit trust industry.

TO: FRAMLINGTON UNIT MANAGEMENT LIMITED, 3 LONDON WALL BUILDINGS, LONDON EC2M 5NQ

I wish to start a Savings Plan in Framlington Capital Trust for £ per month (minimum £20).

I enclose my cheque for £ for my first contribution, made payable to Framlington Unit Management Limited (This can be more than the monthly amount).

Surname (Mr/Mrs/Miss/Title)

Full first name(s)

Address

If you are investing for a child, put the child's initials in this box

Signature(s)

Date

If you are making a joint application, e.g. for husband and wife, each person should sign and if necessary enclose details separately.

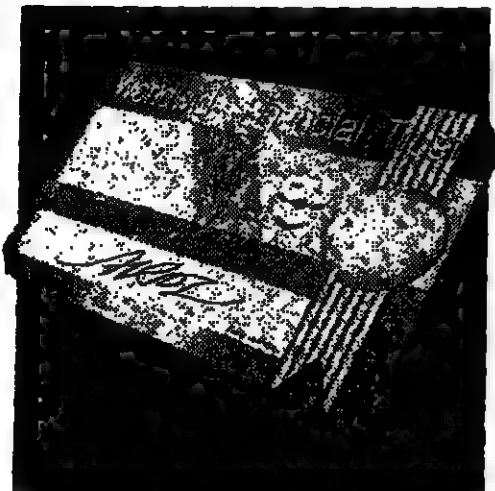
FRAMLINGTON

T 27/6

8
PHONE FREE
ON 0800 521596
THIS WEEKEND
Saturday & Sunday 10am-4pm

SUN ALLIANCE UNIT TRUSTS

SUN ALLIANCE ANNOUNCES TWO NEW WORLDWIDE INVESTMENT OPPORTUNITIES

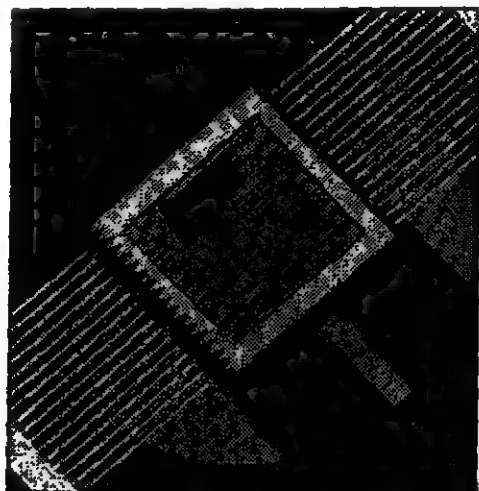


THE SUN ALLIANCE WORLDWIDE FINANCIAL TRUST

To benefit from buoyant financial markets Banks, finance houses, insurance companies and property companies are expanding in the world's three main financial centres - New York, Tokyo and London.

Profit potential is high and there are excellent investment opportunities for the medium to longer term. Worldwide investment will enable the Trust to benefit from the growth in international financial markets.

The Trust will invest in financial services companies with initially about 35% of the funds being invested in the United States, 30% in Japan, 20% in the UK and the remainder elsewhere, to create a balanced portfolio.



THE SUN ALLIANCE WORLDWIDE TECHNOLOGY TRUST

To share in the fruits of new technology Technology stocks worldwide have underperformed in the past few years, but already this year has seen a change. For example, excellent stock market returns have been enjoyed by United States high-technology companies recently.

Technology spans a host of areas from compact discs and digital audio tapes to chemicals, computers and a wide range of other science-based industries. Substantial growth is anticipated in the market for high-tech leisure products.

The investment portfolio will be allocated initially with about 45% in the United States, 25% in the UK, 20% in Japan and the balance elsewhere.

INNOVATION WITH CARE

Identifying investment opportunities ahead of others calls for the broadest of worldwide perspectives. A worldwide view of the major economies and stockmarkets is just a start - drawing informed conclusions, particularly as to the prospects for individual companies, is the next vital step.

In creating our two new Unit Trusts - The Sun Alliance Worldwide Financial Trust and The Sun Alliance Worldwide Technology Trust - we are blending a spirit of financial innovation with the prudence that comes from more than 250 years of managing money. We are proud of our long tradition of investing funds in the main stock markets and in a host of currencies - making sound investment decisions that reflect our care for our clients.

The two Trusts are designed for capital growth in the medium to longer term and they extend Sun Alliance's range of Trusts to give an even wider choice of investment opportunities.

You should bear in mind that the value of your units and the income from them can go down as well as up.

Unit prices and yields are published daily in the leading financial newspapers.

TO BUY UNITS

If you would like to invest in The Sun Alliance Worldwide Financial Trust and/or The Sun Alliance Worldwide Technology Trust simply complete the form and return it to us with your cheque (minimum £500 in either Trust).

For more information and detailed brochures about these Trusts, call Sun Alliance free on 0800 521596.

UP TO 1 1/4% LAUNCH DISCOUNT
Until July 10th the units carry a fixed offer price of 50p and the minimum investment is £500. After July 10th units will be allocated at the current offer price.

Act before July 10th and you will also receive a discount. Investments of up to £5,000 receive a 1% discount - £5,000 and above receive 1 1/4%.

This discount is operated by automatically increasing the number of units allocated.

TO SELL UNITS

If you decide to sell any of your units, all you need to do is inform us at the address below in writing or by telephone, complete the reverse of your certificate (the Form of Renunciation) and return it to us. We will send you your cheque based on the value of your units at the bid price then ruling.

Some helpful information for you

AUTHORISATION The Trusts are authorised by the Department of Trade and Industry and are constituted by a Trust Deed between Sun Alliance Fund Management Ltd (the Managers) and Lloyds Bank Plc (the Trustee). The Trusts are wide-range investments under the Trustee Investments Act 1961. Sun Alliance Fund Management Ltd is a member of the Unit Trust Association.

APPLICATIONS Applications for units will be acknowledged by a contract note and certificates will normally follow within 6 weeks.

CHARGES An initial charge of 5% is included in the price of units, to which a rounding adjustment of up to 1% may be added. An annual management fee of 1% plus VAT is deducted from the value of the fund. The maximum charges permitted are 6% and 2% respectively. Any charge is subject to 3 months notice. Remuneration may be paid to qualified intermediaries; details are available upon request.

CAPITAL GAINS TAX The Trusts are not subject to capital gains tax. A unit holder pays tax on a disposal only if his total taxable gain from all sources, over and above the original purchase price and adjusted for inflation, exceeds £10,000 in any one year.

INCOME TAX Units in both Trusts will be accumulated units. Income arising within the Trusts will be automatically reinvested net of basic rate tax. Unit holders will be issued with details of income received and tax deducted, and should be submitted with your tax return. No further tax will be payable by basic rate taxpayers. Higher rate taxpayers may be liable to a further charge. Unit holders may be able to claim a refund of tax from the Inland Revenue. **YIELD** The gross estimated starting yield will be 3% for the Worldwide Financial Trust and 1% for the Worldwide Technology Trust. The distribution date for both Trusts will be 31st August, with the first distribution on 31st August 1988. Annual reports will be sent to all unit holders.

To: Sun Alliance Unit Trusts, FREEPOST, Horsham, West Sussex, RH12 1ZA.

I/We wish to invest (minimum £500 for each Trust) in:

The Sun Alliance

Worldwide Financial Trust £

The Sun Alliance

Worldwide Technology Trust £

at the fixed offer price of 50p per unit effective until July 10th. Applications received after July 10th will have units allocated at the offer price ruling on receipt. I enclose a cheque payable to Sun Alliance Fund Management Limited. Not open to residents of the Republic of Ireland.

**SUN ALLIANCE
UNIT TRUSTS**
Managing Your Money With Care

T27/6

SUN ALLIANCE UNIT TRUSTS

SUN ALLIANCE UNIT TRUSTS

MEMBER OF THE UNIT TRUST ASSOCIATION

FAMILY MONEY/5

Best advice bought



Fiona Moore: no downgrading FIMBRA, points out, the customer must understand the terms on which the business is being done.

Let us conjugate: good, better, better than average, good enough for your purposes, the best there is, you'd be absolutely daft not to buy a chunk of this.

We are, of course, talking about financial products and the advice you are likely to get from your friendly, independent and totally objective adviser. Under the Financial Services Act, the adviser must provide clients with advice best suited to their purposes. If he does not, he could be severely slapped on the wrist.

But, as everybody in the unit trust and life assurance business knows perfectly well, there is advice and advice. The problem is that the consumer may not be so well informed. So just how objective is the advice offered by the so-called independent consultant who depends primarily on commission for his livelihood?

Only the most idealistic supporter of the new regime would insist that advice from independents is as pure as the driven snow. Brokers have to live, like the rest of us.

But, under rules soon to be activated by the Financial Intermediaries, Managers and Brokers Regulatory Association (FIMBRA), they could be called on to justify their actions.

How, for instance, will they explain their reluctance to

recommend policies issued by companies that do not pay commission, such as London Life and Equitable Life? Both companies are consistently among the top performers.

The cynical answer is that the regulations are so woolly that the let-out clause can be summed up in three little words: "In my view." If, in the adviser's view, there is no valid reason to recommend a product of a no-commission house, that will be the end of the matter.

"Brokers will always find an excuse for not recommending our products," says Shaun Kinnis, of Equitable Life. "We've had to live with that for over 200 years."

Problem largely one of education

Others take a less detached view. London Life, in particular, is thought to be looking very hard at its no-commission policy, which it has always regarded as a star attraction.

While the company would undoubtedly prefer to continue doing business in the traditional way, it is not unaware of the competitive forces in the market-place.

To maintain market share it might have to consider ways "to encourage referral from intermediaries". For the time

being, however, no commission remains the rule and a not-quite-unique selling point.

The problem for London Life and its ilk is largely one of education. Unless the consumer knows other products are available, he is likely to opt for one offered by the adviser. In other words, the customer has to know that, in business, you get what you pay for.

Harry Tomczyk, of Ecclesiastical Life, another no-commission house, says: "There is a difference between those in the business and the general public who have been brought up with the system."

"It would obviously be nice if intermediaries could sell some of our products. We have only a small sales force and we know we're not going to make a big splash."

"But, clearly, the concept of best advice will cause a problem for brokers. It might be better if consumers paid a fee to ensure that they got the best advice."

Mr Kinnis, at Equitable Life, thinks there is considerable public resistance to the concept of paying a fee. Most fee arrangements involve companies, not individuals.

Where a fee is charged, commission is often - although not always - refunded if the business is likely to expand, if only to get around some of the finer points of the Act. But, as Fiona Moore, of

There are suggestions that some intermediaries are planning to downgrade the concept of best advice to "the best advice available in the circumstances" or even simply "good advice". This potential departure from both the letter and the spirit of the law is missed firmly in the bud by Miss Moore.

"There will be no downgrading of the concept in this office," she says. "Best advice means best advice."

The sleuths from FIMBRA will descend on brokers' offices from time to time to ensure that clients are getting a fair deal. The danger is that brokers and other intermediaries may be tempted to engage in a little window-dressing, perhaps by putting a deserving widow or orphan into an Ecclesiastical or Equitable Life policy.

For most consumers, the best advice will almost certainly be obtained through the payment of a fee.

Keith Sharp

Go to court, despite the hassle

More than three million accidents involving personal injuries happen every year in England, 215,000 of them on the road, 350,000 at work and 2.5 million elsewhere, mostly in the home.

But it is estimated that only about 300,000 injury victims make claims on the basis of negligence or statutory duty. And even where court proceedings are started, only a small proportion go as far as trial before a judge.

Among reasons for the small number of claims are defects - perceived and real - in the legal machinery for bringing claims: the Lord Chancellor's Department itself has described the present system for personal injury claims as "inefficient, dilatory and disproportionately expensive"; there are ignorance or confusion about how it works and fear of costs; and lack of a witness is a factor.

With claims starting in the High Court taking six or more years from accident to damages award, and those in the county court taking three or more years where only £3,000 is involved, it is no wonder that people are deterred. But the Consumers' Association advises in a new book* that even in the face of delaying tactics, bureaucracy, and "an avalanche of forms, documents and statements", claimants should not give up.

It does, however, recommend using a

solicitor with the appropriate expertise in accident claims. A personal injury claim, an essential part of which is proving negligence, is not a do-it-yourself job, it says. And, the book warns, be prepared to wait a long time before obtaining any compensation.

None the less, the book advises accident victims to "act quickly". A possible negligence claim is "a great incentive to a sudden decision that repairs should be done". It covers the range of accidents that can occur and how to act in every one of them. In many cases, legal compensation is not as important a way of providing for the victim as are payments from the state, employers and insurance policies.

It advises, for example, that if an accident occurs to someone in his or her own home, it is not possible to claim on the household insurance for the injury, unless an outsider was responsible. But in someone else's home, it says, the contents policies cover liability claims by third parties, so the injured person should not feel inhibited about making a claim against the host.

As for accidents at work, claims should not be made direct without guidance and help, the book says. Discuss a possible claim with a trade union. It will have to be proved that it was the employer's

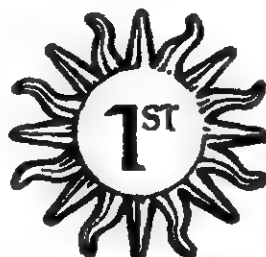
negligence rather than carelessness or disobedience that caused the accident.

But claims must still be settled within the existing legal system and its defects. There is hope for reform, however. The next parliamentary session is likely to see legislation both on the legal aid scheme and the whole procedure for pursuing civil court claims. Proposals floated in the Lord Chancellor's Department include "hotbed" procedures under which lawyers would have to disclose their case at an early stage, and would also face the sanction of costs penalties if they do not conduct a case within a set timetable.

There is also the possibility of a more informal arbitration procedure for smaller claims. At the same time there are proposals from the Law Society and insurance companies for other ways to help people pursue their claims, including mass damages claims. The two sets of reforms together could see a much improved system before too long.

Frances Gibb

Legal Affairs Correspondent
* What to do after an accident, published by the Consumers' Association with Hodder & Stoughton, available from bookshops or the Consumers' Association, PO Box 44, Hertsford SG14 1SH, at £5.95, including postage and packing



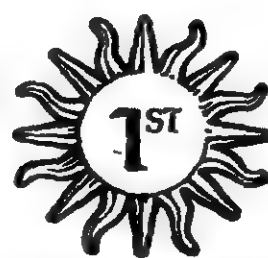
MANAGED HIGH YIELD
+199.3%



MANAGED GROWTH
+168.8%



MANAGED INCOME
+125.5%



JAPAN GROWTH
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FAR EAST GROWTH
+202.8%

Five of the best.

At the end of our second year, five of our unit trusts are top of their unit trust industry sectors.

Indeed, each of our eleven original trusts has produced above average performance over the period and if you had invested £1,000 in each at launch, this would now be worth an astonishing £25,330.

With over £276 million under management, nearly 40,000 account holders and with access to the resources and investment

expertise of the Sun Life Assurance group, we believe that we continue to be well placed to offer investors top class results.

To find out more, please contact your professional adviser or complete the coupon below.

To: Sun Life Trust Management Limited, Granite House,
101 Cannon Street, London EC4N 5AD
☐ Please send me more information on the full range of Sun Life unit trusts.
☐ I would like a representative to call me.
Name: _____
Address: _____
Phone: _____



(All statistics M&Opal, offer to bid, income reinvested, 24 months to 1.6.87)

FAMILY MONEY/6

How your investments will cost you money

TAX

In response to readers' inquiries, **DANBY BLOCH** and **RAYMOND GODFREY** explain the basic structure of capital gains tax. Future articles will cover some of the complexities and planning points.

With the recent rise in the stock market and property values, many investors find themselves faced with a potential capital gains tax (CGT) liability for the first time.

But does CGT really matter? There is the ever-present possibility that it will be abolished. As its critics always point out, CGT is complicated, is expensive to administer, and yields relatively little revenue (£1.05 billion forecast for 1986-87) and the amount raised will probably decline in the future.

It is suggested that we might follow the American pattern or revert to the pre-1985 situation when only short-term gains were taxed. But there is not much sign yet of the tax being abolished — even though you do not now have to tell the taxman in your tax return about the chargeable assets you have acquired during the year.

The rules for companies are being changed only this year and the yield from CGT is not entirely negligible. It is arguable that more income tax would be lost if there were a chance of making totally tax-free capital gains and that a short-term gains tax would introduce serious distortions in the investment market.

Nevertheless, whatever the rights and wrongs of these arguments, you certainly should not plan your affairs with the expectation of CGT being abolished. Such a strategy could lead to some expensive mistakes in terms of lost opportunities either to buy or sell investments.

Main home is an exempt asset

So what is CGT and, in particular, when is it charged?

The important point to grasp is that CGT is taxable only when you actually dispose of an asset. If it grows and you continue to hold the asset, no CGT is payable until you sell it or gift it. Most assets are chargeable in principle — land, buildings, shares, unit trusts and even debts, options and many other rights.

There are, however, various important exempt assets such

as a person's main home or government securities.

Disposing of an asset includes a wide variety of different types of transactions — not just selling something, but any other way by which a person ceases to own an asset. This could include a gift, an exchange or even a loss where you make an insurance claim.

One event that does not trigger a CGT charge is death. When a person dies, his assets are treated as if they had been acquired by his heirs at their full market value.

So, an elderly person who is holding on to an asset on which there is a very substantial taxable gain may decide to hang on to it for the rest of his life. In this way, he can pass it free of CGT to his heirs. Of course, this approach needs to take into account any inheritance tax planning that could be done.

CGT is 30 per cent for individuals and trusts, but from this year companies pay tax on gains at whatever

cost is usually the amount that you pay for it, unless it was a gift, in which case you will take the open market value. There are special rules where the gain on the gift has been "held over" or postponed and we shall deal with that in a later week.

But it is not just the acquisition costs that count: there is often a lot of other allowable expenditure that can be used in order to reduce the gain. In the case of a property, for example, this could be surveyors' fees and

Calculate gain and loss for taxable total

legal costs. You can also deduct the stamp duty you paid on the acquisition as well as commissions and other expenditure such as advertising on both buying and selling.

Furthermore, expenditure on improving the capital value of an asset is also a deduction for CGT. Mind you, that has to be capital expenditure — such as putting in a kitchen or bathroom — not repairs and renewals such as painting, decorating, or patching the roof.

Then there is the indexation relief, which is, in principle at least simple, but which can introduce some considerable complications for certain taxpayers.

For assets bought in March 1982 or later, you revalue the cost price of your investment by the increase in the retail price index between the month of acquisition and the month of disposal.

However, if you bought an asset before March 1982, then the amount that you revalue will be either your original acquisition value or the March 1982 value if that comes to more.

So, if you bought an asset for £1,000 after 1982 and the retail price index over the period moved by 10 per cent, then your indexation relief will be worth £100. This amount can be used to reduce your taxable gain or possibly increase the value of an allowable loss. In a later article we shall look at the intricacies of this mechanism.

Then, you add up all your gains and all your losses and the resulting total may be subject to CGT. For example, if you have realized gains of £10,000 and realized losses of £2,000, you deduct the gains from the losses leaving you net gains of £8,000. The first £6,600 this year will be free of capital gains tax; so the balance of £1,400 is potentially liable to CGT at 30 per cent.



Portfolio Gold

For readers who may have missed a copy of *The Times* this week, we repeat below the week's Portfolio price changes (today's are on page 28).

Sec	Mon	Tue	Wed	Thur	Fri	Sat	Week
1	+4	+2	+3	+3	+2		
2	+2	+5	+3	+2	+2		
3	+4	+3	+5	+1	+4		
4	+8	+4	+4	+1	+2		
5	+6	+2	+4	+1	+2		
6	+8	+3	+5	+2	+2		
7	+4	+8	+7	+1	+1		
8	+4	+5	+4	+2	+4		
9	+4	+8	+7	+3	+3		
10	+5	+2	+3	+3	+3		
11	+3	+4	+5	+3	+2		
12	+8	+7	+8	+4	+4		
13	+8	+3	+5	+2	+2		
14	+2	+4	+6	+5	+3		
15	+8	+5	+7	+1	+2		
16	+7	+4	+4	+1	+2		
17	+3	+9	+4	+3	+2		
18	+5	+4	+6	+3	+5		
19	+4	+3	+5	+2	+4		
20	+4	+7	+8	+1	+2		
21	+4	+3	+5	+2	+2		
22	+8	+6	+4	+2	+2		
23	+1	+7	+9	+1	+3		
24	+5	+2	+3	+3	+4		
25	+4	+3	+4	+3	+3		
26	+3	+5	+6	+4	+4		
27	+8	+1	+8	+3	+1		
28	+2	+5	+7	+2	+4		
29	+5	+3	+6	+5	+5		
30	+5	+8	+4	+2	+3		
31	+2	+8	+8	+2	+2		
32	+2	+3	+4	+3	+2		
33	+4	+3	+3	+1	+2		
34	+4	+3	+2	+5	+4		
35	+3	+5	+9	+2	+1		
36	+4	+4	+6	+3	+5		
37	+8	+3	+5	+3	+1		
38	+3	+8	+8	+3	+3		
39	+3	+2	+3	+3	+3		
40	+6	+5	+4	+3	+2		
41	+3	+2	+3	+3	+2		
42	+1	+5	+8	+2	+4		
43	+7	+4	+4	+1	+3		
44	+4	+3	+5	+3	+3		

All box numbers should be sent to:
BOX NO. 1
BOX NO. 2
P.O. BOX 484
VIRGINIA STREET
LONDON E1 8DD

THE GREATER BRITISH INVESTMENT



THE NEW EBC AMRO UK UNIT TRUSTS

"Britain is top of the league of Western economies with Gross National Product expected to grow around 3.5% this year," said the Sunday Times (17th May 1987).
Inflation is under control. The corporate sector is financially strong and order books are booming. Further cuts in interest rates are anticipated. All in all, the economic outlook is healthy.

And a Conservative win at the General Election means that the policies, which have contributed so much to our economic revival, will carry on.

It's not surprising that the stock market has been setting new records over the last 12 months. Informed investors are taking the view that it will go on doing so for some time to come.

THE BEST OF BOTH

Because we have recognised these favourable conditions, we are launching two UK unit trusts.

The EBC Amro UK Growth Trust aims for maximum capital growth from British companies.

The EBC Amro Income and Growth Trust aims to produce a 6% gross yield from a mixture of gilt, preference shares, convertibles, bonds and equities. One way or the other it's time you took a greater stake in Britain's prosperous future.

FIXED PRICE OFFER

Units will be offered at a 1% discount on a fixed price of 50p per unit until July 1987.

HOW TO INVEST

Complete the application form and send it, together with your cheque made payable to EBC Amro UK Unit Trusts Management Limited, FREEPOST, London EC2B 2JE into stamping required.

Fixed price offer: 1% discount applies until July 1987 after which units will be sold at the current offer price.

Please tick relevant box if you require the following:

☐ Automatic reinvestment of distributions.

☐ Further information about the EBC Amro UK Growth Trust.

☐ Further information about the EBC Amro Income and Growth Trust.

☐ Details of the EBC Amro Monthly Savings Plan.

☐ Details of the EBC Amro Share Exchange Scheme.

The minimum initial lump sum investment per Trust is £500. The minimum additional investment is £100.

If you don't have £500 immediately available, send for details of EBC Amro's Monthly Savings Plan to see how the appropriate plan can be chosen.

If you already have shares you would like to exchange for units in one or both of these Trusts, please tick the appropriate box on the coupon below.

Remember that the price of units and the income from them can go down as well as up.

GENERAL INFORMATION

Units may be repurchased at the best price ruling on request of an order by EBC Amro.

An annual charge of 5% is included in the price of the units. This charge is spread over the life of the units and is not payable until the units are redeemed.

UK GROWTH TRUST

Estimated gross current yield is 1% at the launch price of 50p per unit. Units may be repurchased at the best price ruling on request of an order by EBC Amro.

Reports on the Trust will be issued quarterly on 1st, 4th, 7th and 10th January. The units will be distributed quarterly net of basic rate tax. An annual charge of 1.25% (plus half of the balance of the charge) is deducted from the Trust's income.

INCOME AND GROWTH TRUST

Estimated gross current yield is 6% at the launch price of 50p per unit. Units may be repurchased at the best price ruling on request of an order by EBC Amro.

Reports on the Trust will be issued quarterly on 1st, 4th, 7th and 10th January. The units will be distributed quarterly net of basic rate tax. An annual charge of 1.25% (plus half of the balance of the charge) is deducted from the Trust's income.

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Investor:

Nervous shock from seeing home fire

Atia v British Gas plc
Before Lord Justice Dillon,
Lord Justice Woolf and Lord
Justice Bingham

[Judgment June 26]

A plaintiff who suffered psychiatric illness from witnessing the destruction of her home could claim damages for nervous shock from the defendant, notwithstanding the absence of any actual physical injury.

The Court of Appeal so held allowing an appeal by the plaintiff, Mrs Madia Atia, of Leaver Gardens, Greenford, Middlesex, from a decision of Sir Douglas Frank QC sitting as a deputy High Court judge on December 19, 1986.

Mr David Tucker for the plaintiff; Miss Janet Turner for the defendants, British Gas plc.

LORD JUSTICE DILLON said that in 1981 the plaintiff engaged the defendants to install central heating to her home. When she was returning home on July 1, 1981, she saw smoke coming from the loft of the house. She telephoned the fire brigade but by the time they arrived, the whole house was on fire. The house and its contents were extensively damaged.

The defendants admitted that the fire was caused by the negligence of their employees who were working at the house. The plaintiff's claim for damage to the house and its contents had been settled.

In the action the plaintiff's only claim was for nervous shock; although she did not suffer any physical injury she suffered a psychiatric or mental illness as a result of seeing her home ablaze.

The defendants disputed the claim but to save costs the

parties agreed that the following question should be set down for determination as a preliminary issue: "can the plaintiff recover damages for nervous shock caused by witnessing her home and possessions damaged and/or destroyed by a fire caused by the defendant's negligence while installing central heating in the plaintiff's home?"

For the purposes of the preliminary issue, the facts alleged in the statement of claim were assumed to be true; in particular that the plaintiff had suffered a psychiatric illness which was caused by the shock of seeing her home and its contents ablaze.

The defendants submitted that the plaintiff could not succeed for either of two reasons:

1 that it was not reasonably foreseeable that the plaintiff might suffer any psychiatric illness as a result of the defendant's negligence in starting the fire; or

2 that even if it was reasonably foreseeable that the plaintiff might suffer psychiatric illness, damages for nervous shock could as a matter of law and public policy, only be recovered if the shock was caused by the death or injury of a person, or by fear of the death or injury of a person, normally a person closely related to the plaintiff, and could not be recovered if it was merely caused by injury to property.

The judge decided in the defendant's favour on the first contention and dismissed the action. What emerged from the case was that damage for nervous shock, as regarded as a separate head of damage, distinct from damage for personal injury. The law had

developed step-by-step and was still developing.

His Lordship was reluctant to lay down any general rule as to the conditions in which damages could or could not be recovered as a matter of public policy. For that reason the procedure of a preliminary issue on assumed facts had disadvantages where what was under consideration was how the law should develop in a matter of some general importance.

It appeared from *McLoughlin v O'Brian* (1983) 1 AC 410 and from the Australian case *Jacobs v Coffey* (1984) 58 ALJR 426 that the difficulty over the development of the law as to damages for nervous shock arose in relation to the question of proximity. That difficulty was particularly concerned with whether the wrongdoer owed any duty of care to the claimant.

That difficulty did not arise in the present case because the defendant knew about the plaintiff and unquestionably owed a duty of care to her not to start a fire in her house.

The issues at the trial, assuming the facts pleaded, including the psychiatric illness, were proved, would have been (a) causation and (b) foreseeability of the damage as a question of remoteness.

There was no good reason why, in such a context, the law should have refused to allow her damages for nervous shock if she could get over those two hurdles.

His Lordship was not prepared to hold that the fact that the shock which caused the plaintiff's assumed psychiatric illness was caused by damage to property must preclude her

claim. The court was asked to say, in effect, that psychiatric illness caused by the shock could never, as a matter of fact rather than law, be a foreseeable consequence when a woman saw her home and its contents burning down. His Lordship was not prepared to make any such general *a priori* ruling on such scanty material.

Whether the plaintiff's assumed illness caused by the shock was or was not a foreseeable consequence of the defendant's negligence had to be decided on the actual evidence given at the trial. His Lordship would set aside the order of the deputy judge and allow the action to proceed to trial.

LORD JUSTICE WOOLF and Lord Justice Bingham delivered concurring judgments.

Solicitors: Fremont & Co; Mr P. H. Deacon, Staines.

Cunningham-Reid and Another v Buchanan-Jardine
Before Lord Justice Dillon,
Lord Justice Woolf and Lord Justice Bingham

[Judgment June 23]

Where an agreement contained an arbitration clause and one of the parties commenced a court action raising allegations of fraud against the other, the court would, on the application of the person charged with fraud, normally exercise its discretion under sections 4 and 24 of the Arbitration Act 1950 to stay the action so that the dispute could be arbitrated.

The Court of Appeal so held allowing an appeal by the defendant, Irmgard Buchanan-Jardine, from a decision of Sir Neil Lawson sitting as a High Court judge on February 12, 1987. The defendant, an interior designer, had contracted to carry out work in the home of the plaintiffs, Michael and Dorothea Cunningham-Reid. The agreement contained an arbitration clause.

The plaintiffs had issued a writ alleging that the defendant, while acting for them, had converted money belonging to them. Master Lubbock, on the defendant's application, granted a stay of the court proceedings. On the plaintiffs' appeal the judge had removed the stay.

Mr Alan Newman for the defendant; Mr John Stevenson for the plaintiffs.

LORD JUSTICE WOOLF said that the relevant law was contained in section 4 and section 24(2) and (3) of the 1950 Act. In *Russell v Russell* (1980) 14 CHD 471, 476-477, where Lord Wilberforce said that "the fraud relied on must be fraud by the party opposing the stay; see *Russell v Russell* (1980) 14 CHD 471" so that any alleged fraud by the appellants is irrelevant.

In his Lordship's judgment it was clear that the matter referred to by Lord Wilberforce's speech was not *obiter* nor could

it be suggested that it was *per incuriam*. That passage had to be read in the context of the case.

Lord Wilberforce did not indicate that he was dissenting or differing from the view of the Master of the Rolls in *Russell*. He was merely using shorthand to indicate the general approach which should be adopted on an application for a stay where fraud was raised.

In saying what he did Lord Wilberforce was indicating that the fraud in that case was irrelevant. He was not suggesting that in no circumstances could a charge of fraud be of any relevance where fraud was being relied upon by the person making the allegation rather than the person charged with fraud in support of a contention that an action should be stayed.

The passage did support the view that where the party alleging the fraud opposed a stay, the court's normal approach would not be to accede to his argument where the sole matter relied upon was fraud.

The judge had stated that Lord Wilberforce had mis-

understood what the Master of the Rolls said when he cited *Russell*. In his Lordship's view, it was not open to the judge to form any such conclusion.

The correct approach was to view what Lord Wilberforce said having regard to the decision in *Russell* and to the clear discretion given to the court under section 4 and section 24(2) and (3) of the 1950 Act, the language of which was not confined to a situation where the stay was opposed by the party charged with fraud.

In his Lordship's view, despite the serious charge of fraud in the present case, there was no good reason why the normal course of allowing the matter to proceed to arbitration in accordance with the parties' agreement should not be adopted. In all the circumstances, the case was one which required the judge to uphold the master's order.

LORD JUSTICE DILLON and Lord Justice Bingham delivered concurring judgments.

Solicitors: Sears Tooth & Co; Robinson Callaghan with Polden Bishop & Gale.

Fraud charge should be arbitrated

Reid v British Telecommunications plc

[Judgment June 26]

Although it was not negligent for a statutory undertaker to rely on a highway authority's six-monthly inspections of its pavements, rather than itself conducting regular inspections of the condition of its manhole covers, if such an undertaker did so it was to be taken to have the same knowledge of their condition as it would or ought to have had if it had carried out its own inspection at the time of the highway authority's inspection.

The Court of Appeal (Lord Justice Mustill and Lord Justice Woolf) so held on June 26, dismissing an appeal by the defendant, British Telecommunications plc, from a decision of Judge Barr at Brentford County Court who on March 24 had awarded the plaintiff, Mrs Joy Celia Louise Reid, £8,577 damages for personal injuries sustained when she had tripped over a manhole cover owned by the defendant which had projected 12 millimetres above the surface of the pavement.

The Court of Appeal (Lord Justice Mustill and Lord Justice Woolf) so held on June 26, dismissing an appeal by the defendant, British Telecommunications plc, from a decision of Judge Barr at Brentford County Court who on March 24 had awarded the plaintiff, Mrs Joy Celia Louise Reid, £8,577 damages for personal injuries sustained when she had tripped over a manhole cover owned by the defendant which had projected 12 millimetres above the surface of the pavement.

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